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Indiana CTSI-Purdue retreat focuses on new opportunities, future directions

May 13, 2014

A new alliance focused on aligning resources to advance early stage drug development at top research universities across the state announced its first request for proposals during a retreat hosted by the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute at Purdue in West Lafayette, Ind.

"Indiana CTSI-Purdue: Reflections, Looking Forward and Opportunities," which took place April 21 at the Burton D. Morgan Entrepreneurship Center at Purdue's Discovery Park, provided scientists, researchers, physicians, hospital administrators and members of the life sciences community the opportunity learn more about future directions of the Indiana CTSI, including the recently established Indiana CTSI Institute Molecular Therapeutics Program.

"If you combine not only Purdue, Notre Dame, IU Bloomington and the Indianapolis campus but also Eli Lilly and Co., a large corporation focused on molecular therapeutics, we have a tremendous amount of resources, strength and expertise in the region," said Anantha Shekhar, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Indiana CTSI and associate vice president for university clinical affairs at IU. "There is enormous amount of national chemistry and growth development talent in this state, so we really need to bring together a group and create virtual network for new molecular discovery."

Host Connie Weaver, Ph.D., Purdue Distinguished Professor and Chair of Nutrition Sciences and deputy director of the Indiana CTSI, agreed.

"If Indiana can't achieve new drugs through this pipeline, I can't imagine that any other state could do it," she said.

Molecular Therapeutics and Drug Discovery

A new program at the Indiana CTSI, the Molecular Therapeutics Program will administer the [first request for applications](#) on behalf of the recently established Indiana Drug Discovery Alliance, a clearinghouse for drug discovery and development resources at the Indiana-CTSI member institutions of IU, Purdue and Notre Dame. Applicants to the program can request up to \$15,000, but a budget and budget justification are not required, according to Richard Taylor, Ph.D., associate vice president for research at the University of Notre Dame, who serves as co-director of the program.

Additional co-directors of the IDDA are Timothy Ratliff, Ph.D., Robert Wallace Miller Director of the Center for Cancer Research at Purdue; and Zhong-Yin Zhang, Ph.D., chair and Robert A. Harris Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at IU.

Dr. Taylor added the IDDA will support drug development projects through a variety of programs, including review from a team of experienced industry and academic experts on the group's internal advisory committee as well as ad-hoc, project-specific pharmaceutical expert reviewers. The alliance will also facilitate collaborative translational research and partnerships related to drug discovery through support for team building across diverse disciplines, the identification of complementary expertise across the Indiana CTSI and, when necessary, the creation of new, external partnerships.

Additional speakers were Andrew Mesecar, Ph.D., Walther Professor of Cancer Structural Biology-Biochemistry at Purdue, who provided additional information on therapeutics development resources at Purdue, and Yvonne Lai, Ph.D., a senior scientist in Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at IU Bloomington, and Shahriar Mobashery, Ph.D., Navari Family Professor in Life Sciences at Notre Dame, who both presented their experience as researchers engaged in new compound discovery. The



Speaker presentations and audio:

Opening Remarks

Anantha Shekhar [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Molecular Therapeutics and Drug Discovery

Timothy Ratliff [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Andrew Mesecar [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Richard Taylor [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Yvonne Lai [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Shahriar Mobashery [\[audio\]](#)

Supercores: Genomics and Metabolomic Proteomics

Ken Cornetta [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Jonathan Trinidad [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Matthew Champion [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Rebecca Doerge [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Hospital Engagement

Graham Cooks [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Juan Wachs [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Marietta Harrison [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Jose Azar [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Developmental Center for AIDS Research

Samir Gupta [\[slides\]](#) [\[audio\]](#)

Grants and Awards

Funding Opportunities [\[slides\]](#)



Participants at the Indiana CTSI-Purdue retreat at Discovery Park on April 21.

presenters were introduced by Dr. Ratliff.

Supercores: Genomics and Metabolomic Proteomics

The second strength of the Indiana CTSI presented in the day's introductory remarks were the many ways the Indiana CTSI has worked to align scientific resources cross its member institutions, creating a virtual "home" for the scientists at every stage of the translational research. These programs include:

- The Project Assistance and Resources for Translational Scientists, or PARTS, program, which provides a suite of services that include: assistance on study design and biostatistical analyses; regulatory knowledge and bioethical consultation services; access to laboratory technology and biomedical samples storage; and clinical research resources, including patient research facilities and human subjects recruitment.
- Project Development Teams, or PTDs, which encompasses more than 10 review panels on a range of research topics (e.g.: basic research, pediatrics, urban health, etc.) to provide expert reviews, study design recommendations and pilot funds to researchers to advance their research and/or increase their chances for attracting federal research funding.
- The Career Development, Education and Research Training, or CERT, program, which oversees education opportunities ranging from advanced degree programs in translational science and clinical research to laboratory internship at the medical school, undergraduate and high school level.

Ken Cornetta, Ph.D., Joe C. Christian Professor and chair of medical and molecular genetics at the IU School of Medicine, serves as director of the Access Technology Program, or ATP, a part of the PARTS program that provides access to laboratory technologies and resources across IU, Purdue and Notre Dame. ATP supports its mission through mechanisms such as the Indiana CTSI Core Pilot grants, which provide up to \$10,000 to access technologies at one of any 46 Indiana CTSI-designated cores. Indiana CTSI-designated cores are lab 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 and payment, conflict resolution and user satisfaction.

"Right now we've got cores working in concert and in sequence at all four institutions, but what might be the benefit of doing this on a larger scale?" said Dr. Cornetta, whose presentation reviewed the potential strengths and weakness of creating a single "supercore" program, with the primary advantages including more predictable workloads across cores, which currently operate on a "feast or famine" model, as well as the ability to leverage group buying power to purchase more affordable access to third-party services, such as compound databases.

Other topic speakers were Jonathan Trinidad, Ph.D., associate scientist in chemistry and director of the Laboratory for Biological Mass Spectrometry at IU Bloomington, who reviewed the lab's capabilities; Matthew Champion, Ph.D., research assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Notre Dame, who delved deeper into the some of the practical issues involved in creating a statewide "supercore"; and Rebecca Doerge, Ph.D., Trent and Judith Anderson Distinguished Professor and Chair of Statistics at Purdue, who discussed challenges facing the next generation of bioinformatics.

Hospital Engagement

Dr. Shekhar's opening remarks also put a spotlight on the future goal of the Indiana CTSI to not only advance partnerships and industry and academic partnerships but also "start moving into improving health at level of whole populations," including through growing engagement in the health care system.



Anantha

Shekhar, M.D., Ph.D., opens the session with a review of the Indiana CTSI's past accomplishments and future goals.



Connie

Weaver, M.D., Purdue Distinguished Professor and Chair of Nutrition Sciences and deputy director of the Indiana CTSI, welcomes participants to Purdue.



Shahriar

Mobashery, Ph.D., Navari Family Professor in Life Sciences at Notre Dame, presents his research.



Richard

Taylor, Ph.D., associate vice president for research at Notre Dame; Jay McGill, MBA, a senior project manager at the Indiana CTSI; and JaiPal Singh, Ph.D., director of the Industry Collaboration Portal at the IU School of Medicine and Indiana CTSI.

The first project to earn support from the Indiana CTSI to advance this expanded vision is the [Center for Health Innovation and Implementation Science](#), which oversees research and discovery units focused on improving health care processes at IU Health University Hospital, Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health, Eskenazi Health and the Richard L. Roudebush VA Hospital. The program is supported with funds from the four participating hospitals and the IU School of Medicine.

"The focus of our work is how we can bridge the delivery of healthcare with the discovery of new drugs and new diseases and disease pathways," said Jose Azar, M.D., assistant professor of clinical medicine at the IU School of Medicine and the leader of the research and discovery unit at IU Health University Hospital, whose presentation explained how the emerging field of implementation science "transforms evidence-based research into routine practice" through methods such as resource management, organizational psychology, adaptability to existing systems and rigorous and frequent self-evaluation to improve processes.

Other speakers on the various ways the Indiana CTSI is engaged in health care delivery were Purdue faculty members Marietta Harrison, Ph.D., associate vice president for research and director Oncological Sciences Center at Purdue, who discussed a colorectal cancer trial at IU Health Arnett Hospital to illustrate the clinical research potential of hospitals outside Indianapolis; Juan Wachs, Ph.D., Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering Scholar and assistant professor of industrial engineering, who is working to advance the use of robotics in the operating room; and Graham Cooks, Harry B. Hass Distinguished Professor of Analytical Chemistry, who is using mass spectrometry to assist surgeons in the removal of brain tumors.

The presenters were introduced by Steve Witz, Ph.D., director of the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering at Purdue.

Developmental Center for AIDS Research

Samir Gupta, M.D., associate professor of medicine at the School of Medicine, closed the morning session with a presentation to solicit faculty interested in pursuing support from the National Institutes of Health to establish a Center for AIDS Research in the state of Indiana. [Developmental Center for AIDS Research](#) funds provide assistance to investigators for laying the groundwork to apply for a standard CFAR grant. Currently, Dr. Gupta said very few CFARs exist in the Midwest despite a hidden wealth of expertise on the topic.

"Many scientists in the state of Indiana are conducting research very applicable to HIV/AIDS but are hesitant to pursue AIDS research funding because they don't want to learn a 'new' science," he said. "We could be taking advantage of so many more opportunities from the NIH -- A CFAR grant could change everything."

Interested faculty members are encouraged to contact Dr. Gupta at sgupta1@iu.edu.

Breakout Sessions

The retreat concluded in four concurrent breakout panel discussions on the topics of "Molecular Therapeutics and Drug Discovery," "Supercores," "Hospital Engagement" and "Developmental Center for AIDS Research."

The panels were designed to engage participants in finding solutions to the problems identified in the morning sessions as well as identify positive steps forward to implement these ideas in the coming iteration of the Indiana CTSI.

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Rob Dimmitt, director of finance at the Indiana CTSI and Tommy Sors, Ph.D., and Andrew Bullock, Ph.D., who serve as Indiana CTSI research navigators at Purdue and Notre Dame, respectively.



Yvonne Lai, Ph.D., right, a senior scientist at IU Bloomington and navigator at the Indiana CTSI, and Paul Helquist, Ph.D., professor of chemistry and biology at Notre Dame.



Retreat participants network over lunch at Purdue's Burton D. Morgan Entrepreneurship Center.

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Indiana CTSI awards \$160,000 to advance basic research

May 13, 2014

Seventeen Hoosier scientists recently received about \$160,000 in basic science pilot grants from the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute to encourage the use of technologies and expertise across the Indiana CTSI member institutions of IU, Purdue and Notre Dame.

Each researcher is the recipient of up to \$10,000 for use at one of more than [46 Indiana CTSI-approved core facilities](#), which comprise a wide range of highly advanced research services across the state's three major research universities. This year's projects will advance early stage research on topics such as molecular genetics, infectious diseases, Parkinson's disease, Autism and cancers, including blood and breast.

The grants both provide important support to early-stage basic research projects and were selected for their high potential to later attract larger grant awards from external sources, such as the National Institutes of Health. Also, by connecting researchers across Indiana to scientific resources at multiple universities, they foster collaboration and leverage efficacies across the state by creating putting researchers in contact and reducing the need to duplicate services at multiple institutions.

The recipients, and their projects, are:

- **A.J. Baucum**, Ph.D., of the Department of Biology, School of Science at IUPUI, will receive \$9,340 to access the Protein Analysis Research Core at the IU School of Medicine in support of the project, "Identification of phosphorylation-dependent spinophilin interacting proteins." The project will advance knowledge on the ways in which specific proteins regulate spine density in patients with Parkinson's disease.
- **Brian Calvi**, Ph.D., of the Department of Biology, IU-Bloomington, will receive \$9,985 to access the Flow Cytometry, Light Microscopy Imaging Core at IU-Bloomington in support of the project, "Genome instability and metabolic reprogramming in polyploid cells." The project will advance research on a root cause of genetic instability.
- **Richard Dahl**, Ph.D., of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, IU School of Medicine, will receive \$6,838 to access the Genomics and Bioinformatics Core at Notre Dame in support of the project, "Discovery of Early Hematopoietic Pathways Dependent on MicroRNA miR-24." The project focuses on the directing the development of stem cells for transplantation in individuals with blood disorders.
- **Melissa Fishel**, Ph.D., of the Department of Pediatrics, IU School of Medicine, will receive \$9,060 to access the Clinical Pharmacology Analytical and In Vivo Therapeutics Core at the IU School of Medicine in support of the project, "Development of Novel Potent Salicyclic Acid-Based STAT3 Inhibitors for Cancer Therapy." The project will advance research on a new therapy to potentially improve cancer patient outcomes by controlling a key cellular protein.
- **Patrick T. Fueger**, Ph.D., of the Department of Pediatrics, IU School of Medicine, will receive \$6,498 to access the Islet Core at the IU School of Medicine in support of the project, "Role of Mig6 in diabetes." The project will advance research on diabetes through the role of a specific protein in pancreatic cell death.
- **Tara M. Henagan**, Ph.D., of the Department of Nutrition Science, Purdue, will receive \$10,000 to access the Metabolite Profiling Core at Purdue in

support of the project, "Quercetin-induced skeletal muscle mitochondrial adaptations and regulation of gene expression." The project will explore a dietary supplement's potential to repair high-fat, diet-induced insulin resistance by regulating mitochondrial function in skeletal muscle.

- **William Hetrick**, Ph.D., of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, IU-Bloomington, will receive \$10,000 to access the Imaging Research Facility Core at IU-Bloomington in support of the project, "Cerebellar Dysfunction in Autism." The study will employ a new theoretical model to explore brain mechanisms associated with Autism in the cerebellum, an area of the brain known to be abnormal in people with the disorder.
- **Harm HogenEsch**, Ph.D., of the Department of Comparative Pathobiology, Purdue, will receive \$9,920 to access the Purdue Proteomics Core in support of the project, "Elucidating the Function of SHARPIN Through Phosphoproteomics." The project aims to identify potential new drug targets for inflammatory disease.
- **Ke Hu**, Ph.D., of the Department of Biology, IU-Bloomington, will receive \$10,000 to access the Flow Cytometry Core, Light Microscopy Imaging Center and Electron Microscopy Center at IU-Bloomington in support of the project, "Dissecting the function of novel microtubule associated proteins in the lytic cycle of a human parasite, *Toxoplasma gondii*." The study will advance research on a human parasite that infects about 20 percent of the world's population, causing severe tissue damage in patients with immunosuppressive disorders, such as HIV/AIDS.
- **Steven Johnson**, Ph.D., of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, IU School of Medicine, will receive \$10,000 to access the In Vivo Therapeutics and Clinical Pharmacology Core at the IU School of Medicine in support of the project, "Investigating the Safety and Pharmacokinetic Profiles of Antimicrobial HSP60/10 (GroEL/ES) Inhibitors in Mice." The project aims to advance infection research related to creating new forms of antibiotics.
- **Douglas LaCount**, Ph.D., of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Purdue, will receive \$8,950 to access the Purdue Proteomics Core in support of the project, "Identification of host cell targets of exported malaria parasite proteins." The project aims to identify red blood cell proteins that are targeted by malaria parasites, which are responsible for the leading cause of death by infectious disease worldwide.
- **Miguel A. Morales**, Ph.D., of the Department of Biological Science, Notre Dame, will receive \$9,674 to access the Genomics and Bioinformatics Core at Notre Dame in support of the project, "Mechanisms of miltefosine resistance in *Leishmania*." The project will focus on unravelling resistance to a specific drug in patients with Leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease most commonly found in tropical regions.
- **Harikrishna Nakshatri**, Ph.D., of the Department of Surgery, IU School of Medicine, will receive \$10,000 to access the Center for Medical Genomics Core at the IU School of Medicine in support of the project, "Genes associated with luminal progenitor cell differentiation in breast cancer." The project aims to use RNA-sequencing to identify defective cellular pathways in patients with a high risk of developing breast cancer.
- **Kevin Vaughan**, Ph.D., of the Department of Biological Science, Notre Dame, will receive \$9,590 to access the Purdue Transgenic Mouse Core in support of the project, "A New Transgenic Mouse Model for Dissecting Lysosomal Storage Diseases." The project focuses on studying the defective cholesterol processing in patient with Niemann Pick Type C disease, which affects the liver and spleen, causing death in all cases beyond early childhood.
- **Vikki Weake**, Ph.D., of the Department of Biochemistry, Purdue, will receive \$9,900 to access the Multi-Scale Imaging Center at Purdue's

Bindley Bioscience Center in support of the project, "Epigenetic Maintenance of Gene Expression Homeostasis in the Aging Eye." The study will provide access to high-powered microscopes in order to analyze of gene expression in fruit flies eyes.

- **Mervin Yoder**, M.D., of the Department of Pediatrics, IU School of Medicine, will receive \$9,612 to access the Protein Analysis Research Core at the IU School of Medicine in support of the project, "Mapping Cell Surfaceomes to Discriminate Developmental Stages from Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells to Mature Endothelial Cells." The project aims to advance research on the creation of cells that can regenerate blood vessels in patients with cardiovascular disease.
- **Chongli Yuan**, Ph.D., of the Department of Chemical Engineering, Purdue, will receive \$10,000 to access the Purdue Bioscience Imaging Core in support of the project, "Revealing gene-specific DNA methylation patterns using a single-molecule." The project aims to engineer protein-based molecular probes to detect genetic modifications caused by the environment.

The [Indiana CTSI](#) is a statewide collaboration of Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame to facilitate the translation of scientific discoveries in the lab into new patient treatments in Indiana and beyond. It was established in 2008 with a Clinical and Translational Science Award totaling nearly \$60 million from the National Center for Advancing Translational Science at the National Institutes of Health with additional support from the state, the three member universities, and public and private partners.

Indiana CTSI-designed cores are lab 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 and payment, conflict resolution and user satisfaction.

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Annual event puts focus on community collaborations in research

May 13, 2014

About 80 representatives from community organizations across the state met April 1 in Indianapolis to explore how academic researchers and community organizations can work together to tackle some of the greatest health issues in Indiana.

The event was the sixth annual meeting of the Community Advisory Council of the Community Health Engagement Program, or CHEP, of the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, a \$60 million National Institutes of Health-funded collaboration among IU, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame.

This year's event was co-hosted by the Indianapolis Public Library, the latest organization to join the council, which has grown over the past six years to include more than 550 organizations from across the state.

"This event is an exciting opportunity to reflect on how much this council has grown," said Sarah Wiehe, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of pediatrics and co-director of CHEP. "As part of that growth, we have tremendous capacity to match people both in the community and with academics with similar interests and hopefully make a big impact in terms of health outcomes in the state."

"From the beginning, this council has been a fundamental part of CHEP," added Douglas Miller, M.D., professor emeritus of medicine and co-director of CHEP. "It's a precious and irreplaceable resource that offers advice, skills and capabilities. It also provides groups of involved communities and academics who are actively developing robust partnerships tackling various health issues across the state. Improving health and health care through community-academic partnerships is the foundational element of our approach and our success."

One of the ways that CHEP fosters these connections, and their impact on health, is through pilot funds for community-academic partnerships. This year's event included presentations on several projects funded under the program's 2013 grant awards. ([Applications for this year's pilot grants are due May 16.](#))

Garden on the Go

Helen Sanematsu, assistant professor of visual communication design at the Herron School of Art and Design, presented a partnership with Garden on the Go, a "mobile farmer's market" from IU Health that provides access to fruit and vegetables in resource-limited communities across Indianapolis. The project takes an innovative approach to health data collection through the use of food journals and digital cameras, in which Garden on the Go visitors are asked to record their daily health activities, including a photo of "everything they eat," over the course of several weeks. The journals are collected for analysis when the mobile unit returns to the neighborhood. Volunteers keep the cameras as a gift for their participation.

The project is partially an attempt to overcome the limitations of traditional surveys, in which many individuals observed to be in poor health personally report their health status as "good" to "excellent," Sanematsu said.

Other academic partners on the project are Young-Bok Hong, also a faculty member at Herron, and Terry Zollinger, DrPH, professor emeritus at the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health at IUPUI. The leader of Garden on the Go is Lisa Cole, manager of Indianapolis Community Outreach at IU Health.

Healthy Communities



Douglas Miller, M.D., left, and Sarah Wiehe, M.D., co-directors of the Indiana CTSI Community Health Engagement Program, address the community advisory council.



Helen Sanematsu of the Herron School of Art and Design discusses a collaborative research project with the Fairbanks School of Public Health and IU Health's Garden on the Go.



Waldo Mikels-Carrasco, CHEP liaison manager for iCeNSA at Notre Dame, discusses an Indiana CTSI-supported diabetes management program.



Carol Price of the Healthy Communities of Clinton County Coalition.

Carol Price of the Healthy Communities of Clinton County Coalition described a collaborative project with CHEP, which has launched a data analysis project to review the coalition's activities. Since 2006, Price said, the coalition has implemented numerous initiatives in partnership with local government, educational, economic, public health and non-profit organizations to curb tobacco use, obesity and infant mortality in this rural county.

The result of these actions has been a 20-point increase in the county's public health ranks from 51st to 31st in Indiana. CHEP is creating a detailed timeline of their activities that identify what has made the coalition's approach such a success. The efforts are aimed towards creating a template for similar achievement in other rural communities across the state or beyond.

Diabetes Management

A diabetes management program implemented in partnership between the members of the Michiana Health Exchange Network and the University of Notre Dame was also discussed. Led by Nitesh Chawla, Ph.D., Frank Freimann Collegiate Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Notre Dame researchers have developed a smartphone application that enables adult patients with diabetes to easily participate in quick daily health assessments, including reporting daily blood glucose levels, physical activity, nutrition and a two-question depression survey. The app also provides physicians a quick snapshot of the patient's health trends prior to a clinical visit, which assists in health recommendations at the point of care.

The system will be implemented at Memorial Health Hospital of South Bend, a part of the Beacon Health System. Dr. Chawla is also the director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Network Science & Applications, or iCeNSA. The research project was presented by Waldo Mikels-Carrasco, community health program manager for iCeNSA, who also serves as the Indiana CTSI CHEP liaison at Notre Dame. Donna Vandergraff, an extension specialist in the Department of Nutritional Science at Purdue, who serves as the Indiana CTSI CHEP liaison at Purdue, was also present.

The event concluded with breakout sessions led by Demetrius Glover, Ph.D., director of research and information resources at the United Way of Indiana, and Beth Meyerson, Ph.D., assistant professor at the School of Public Health at IU-Bloomington, and Tony Gillespie, senior field consultant for the Indiana Minority Health Coalition. In the afternoon, CAC members were invited to remain for the IUPUI Center for Urban Health Public Health Week Conference with a keynote address from Lisa Harris, M.D., CEO of Eskenazi Health.

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Dr. Wiehe speaks with a participant in the 2014 Indiana CTSI CHEP Community Advisory Committee.



Stephan Viehweg, left, founding chair of the Indiana Association for Infant and Toddler Mental Health and founding president of Family Voices Indiana, speaks to a fellow event participant during the poster session.



Price, left, speaks with Tom Spradling, a medical account executive at Merck & Co., Inc.

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MBA students partner with Indiana CTSI ATP to provide business assistance to Indiana CTSI-designated cores

May 13, 2014

Masters of business administration students from the IU Kelley School of Business-Bloomington recently presented business management recommendations to two core facilities affiliated with the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute.

The MBA student teams assisted IU Imaging Research Facility and Center for Medical Genomics as part of the IU Kelley School of Business "W579 Life Sciences Practicum" course, which is offered in collaboration with the Indiana CTSI Access Technology Program (ATP). Both facilities are Indiana CTSI-designated cores.

"The students on these two teams really valued the 'real world' experience they gained working on these projects, and leadership of both the IU Imaging Research Facility and the Center for Medical Genomics were pleased with the project results," said George M. Telthorst, MBA, director of the Center for the Business of Life Sciences at the IU Kelley School of Business. "The Kelley School of Business and Indiana CTSI look forward to continuing this partnership next spring."

The team assisting the IU Imaging Research Facility surveyed previous users of the facility and interviewed a number of potential clients to develop a three-phase plan to better market the facility within the IU system, including IU Bloomington. The three phases included suggestions for how the facility could increase awareness, reduce barriers to usage and develop potential new customer relationships.

[The team's complete presentation is available online.](#)

The team assisting the Center for Medical Genomics surveyed previous customers of the core and analyzed the websites of similar medical genomics operations in other academic research institutions and medical centers to identify issues with and features for updating the core's website. The team created a suggested new design for the website, built a website template with the ability to incorporate new updates and made further suggestions as to how the center could market its services.

[This team's complete presentation is also online.](#)

Additional teams from the IU Kelley School of Business-Indianapolis will complete their projects later in the spring, concluding the sixth year of the Kelley School of Business- Indiana CTSI ATP Business Management Assistance collaboration.

If your core or program is interested in applying to this program for business administration assistance, please contact the Indiana CTSI ATP at ctsitr@iu.edu.

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MBA

student consultants hailed from the IU Kelley School of Business at IU Bloomington. Students from the Indianapolis-based program will present their results in the spring.

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Singh to lead industry collaboration at Indiana CTSI

May 13, 2014

JaiPal Singh, Ph.D., has joined the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute to lead a new project focused on increasing public-private partnerships with biotechnical companies across the state of Indiana and beyond.

Dr. Singh, who previously served as chief scientific officer and vice president of research at St. Joseph Translational Research Institute and Emory Healthcare System in Atlanta, Georgia, will direct the IU School of Medicine-Indiana CTSI Industry Collaboration Portal.

The portal, currently under development in collaboration with the IU School of Medicine, sets forth an ambitious mission -- to foster partnerships with private industry, to leverage research successes into new products and therapies, to develop new entrepreneurial initiatives and to attract new sources of research funding.

Dr. Singh will contribute an entrepreneurial spirit, extensive network of industry contacts and deep experience in drug development and discovery to the project. In addition to the Emory Healthcare System, Dr. Singh has been the cardiovascular research head and a research advisor at Eli Lilly and Co., and an advisor to several biotechnology companies.

He is also the founder of his own drug discovery firm, Prana Biotech, which aims to develop "first-in-class" therapies to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Dr. Singh holds a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin and served a post-doctoral fellowship in cellular biology at the Harvard Medical School.

He will also serve as a visiting professor of cellular and integrative physiology at the IU School of Medicine.

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JaiPal Singh, Ph.D.

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Dexter named interim chief research information officer

May 13, 2014

Paul Dexter, M.D., associate professor of clinical medicine at the IU School of Medicine and an investigator at the Regenstrief Institute, has been named the interim chief research information officer for the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute.

Dr. Dexter has been a research scientist at the Regenstrief Institute for the past 20 years with a focus on evolving the institute's information systems for both clinical and research purposes.

He recently served as the principal investigator on a large grant funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to enhance existing information technology infrastructure to improve the nation's capacity to conduct comparative effectiveness research. His role in this work included helping develop new technical platforms for decision support, natural language processing and queries to de-identify patient records for research purposes.

Dr. Dexter is also a part-time hospitalist, chief medical information officer at Eskenazi Health Services and the medical director of ResNet, a primary care research network managed by the Indiana CTSI.

As interim chief research information officer, Dr. Dexter will be responsible for helping develop the Indiana CTSI's research informatics infrastructure in close coordination with the informatics research and development efforts at the Regenstrief Institute. Specific work items include rebuilding ResNet to more efficiently and effectively support clinical research studies; improving access to research data in the Indiana Network for Patient Care; providing access to IU Health data through the Regenstrief Data Core; and implementing near real-time search results for i2b2 (Informatics for Integrating Biology and the Bedside), an NIH-funded biomedical computing project that provides existing clinical data for discovery research.

Dr. Dexter looks forward to working with all interested parties in leveraging informatics to increase the efficiency and productivity of campus research, and invites individuals to reach out via email at prdexter@regenstrief.org.



Paul Dexter, Ph.D.

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Indiana CTSI Opportunities — May 2014

March 11, 2014

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

Indiana CTSI CHEP Community-Based Research Awards -- applications due May 16, 2014

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute's Community Health Engagement Program, or CHEP, is requesting proposals from applicants who are developing or currently involved in collaborative, community-based research projects.

This grant opportunity will provide pilot funds of \$15,000 to \$30,000 to academic and community researchers affiliated with Indiana-based institutions or organizations. These pilot funds may serve a variety of purposes, such as program evaluation, feasibility study or preliminary data collection for extramural grant submissions.

Potential applicants are encouraged to identify, or further develop, collaborative relationships to be strengthened through this grant opportunity.

Both community and academic researchers may apply as project leaders, but both must be involved in the project. A total of \$100,000 has been allocated for all projects funded under this year's grant mechanism.

A webinar with more information about the application process took place on April 9. [This session has been archived online.](#)

For more information, or to apply, visit the [Indiana CTSI grants portal](#). Applicants must log in using their institutional username and password. Application instructions are under "CHEP Community Based Research Awards - 2014.05 (CBR)."

Applications are due **5 p.m. Friday, May 16**. For more information, contact Jenni Hill at jenmhill@iu.edu.

Indiana Drug Discovery Alliance -- applications due July 1, 2014

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute Molecular Therapeutics Program is seeking applications for a competitive program that will provide funds and essential consultation to support the early stage development of therapeutics.

This RFA is provided by the newly established Indiana Drug Discovery Alliance, a clearinghouse for drug discovery and development resources at the Indiana-CTSI member institutions of IU, Purdue and Notre Dame that supports promising early-stage drug discovery research through expert consultation and small research funds.

Applications for this RFA can request up to \$15,000, but a budget and budget justification are not required.

Small grants from the IDDA will support new collaborations and/or the use of core facilities that enable the translation of fundamental discoveries related to drug discovery. Critical research proposal feedback will be provided from a team of experienced industry and academic experts within the group's internal advisory committee as well as through ad-hoc, project-specific pharmaceutical expert reviewers.

The IDDA also facilitates collaborative translational research and partnerships through support for team building across diverse disciplines, the identification of complementary expertise across the Indiana CTSI and, when necessary, the creation of new, external partnerships. In addition, IDDA provides access to education resources to faculty and students on translational drug discovery.

The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. **Tuesday, July 1**. Complete guidelines and application forms are available for download from the [Indiana CTSI grants portal](#). Applicants must log in using their institutional username and password. Application instructions are under "Indiana Drug Discovery Alliance - 2014.07."

For more information, contact Anne Nguyen at ictsi@indianctsi.org.

Research Invention and Scientific Commercialization Program -- no due date

The Indiana CTSI Research Invention and Scientific Commercialization grant program aims to encourage scientific breakthroughs and technology development which serve as the foundation for new business enterprises and/or promote the advancement of translational research or health related objectives.

Eligible applicants must be Indiana University faculty members who have filed a disclosure with the IU Research and Technology Corp. Applications to this program are limited to \$25,000 and are typically for one year or less. Approximately four to five awards are made under this CTSI mechanism each year.

Projects with strong and immediate potential to develop into commercialization of inventions, technologies or other intellectual property will be given funding priority. To learn how to submit a proposal, visit www.indianactsi.org/grants and log in using your institutional username and password.

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Applications instructions are under “Research Invention and Scientific Commercialization (RISC) Program.”

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Indiana CTSI featured in IU and IUPUI reports

May 13, 2014

The Indiana CTSI is featured in new reports from the [IU Office of the Vice President for Research](#) and [IUPUI Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research](#).

Please visit these sites to download and explore the reports.

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On the Horizon — May 2014

Sixth Annual Indiana CTSI Meeting -- Sept. 26

Mark your calendars! The sixth annual meeting of the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute will be **Friday, Sept. 26**, at the [Hine Hall Auditorium](#) on the IUPUI campus in Indianapolis.

This free event is an opportunity to learn more about the Indiana CTSI, participate in poster presentations and breakout sessions, and meet new colleagues and collaborators. Anyone who wants to learn more about the Indiana CTSI is welcome.

Additional information will be posted to the Indiana CTSI HUB. Questions to info@indianactsi.org.

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 and 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 opened 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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