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New center to deliver research-based solutions to rising health care costs

Jan. 14, 2014

In response to rising national health care costs, the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, in partnership with the IU School of Medicine, has launched a new center to increase efficacy and reduce costs at four major health care providers across Indiana.

The newly designated Center for Innovation and Implementation Science, or CIIS -- formerly the Innovation and Implementation Science Initiative -- will oversee four specialized research and discovery units managed by IU School of Medicine researchers at Indiana University Health, Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health, Eskenazi Health and the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis. The center's mission will be to tackle problems with the potential to reduce costs or generate new revenue estimated at \$5 million per year or greater.

"This center will be one of the first such dedicated centers in the nation," said Malaz A. Boustani, M.D., associate professor of medicine at the [IU School of Medicine](#), who will serve as chief operating officer of the center. "It will leverage the country's focus in health care reform to transform the IU School of Medicine's health care partners into laboratories of discovery that improve the health of our population and the quality of their care, and reduce costs."

[Dr. Boustani discusses the new center in a video on IU's Vital Signs blog.](#)

The center is also a direct response to an influential [Institute of Medicine report](#) that called for U.S. health care systems to transform into highly adaptive, learning health care systems, he added.

Support for CIIS comes from the Indiana CTSI and IU School of Medicine with additional funds from [Strategic Research Initiative](#), a joint \$150 million commitment from the IU School of Medicine and IU Health to fund innovative health care research projects. These combined resources will fuel the recruitment and training of additional implementation scientists to IU School of Medicine. Initial support for the center, when it was the Innovation and Implementation Science Initiative, included \$700,000 from the IU School of Medicine, [Regenstrief Institute](#) and Indiana CTSI.

The research and discovery units, including directors and staff members, will be funded by the health care delivery systems in which they are located. Dr. Boustani will oversee the unit at IU Health as chief innovation and implementation officer, the first such position in the nation for a large health system. He will also oversee three CIIO positions at other participating health care systems and hospitals.

Although research and discovery units are common across the biomedical industry, Dr. Boustani said the CIIS is the first center where a [Clinical and Translational Science Award](#)-funded center and a school of medicine will oversee such units embedded within commercial and other health care systems. Over the next five years, CIIS expects to hire 10 to 20 implementation scientists, as well as support staff, across the IU Health, Eskenazi Health and Roudebush VA systems.

"The United States and Western countries have been innovating for years within a rich, unlimited resource environment," Dr. Boustani said. "Yet innovation thrives when faced with limited resources and other challenges. I strongly believe that new restraints on resources will actually improve our ability to innovate in America."

The additional CIIO positions will be held by:

- At Eskenazi Health, William M. Tierney, M.D., president of the Regenstrief Institute, associate dean for clinical effectiveness research and Sam Regenstrief Professor of Health Services Research at the IU School of



VIDEO:

Click the image to watch Malaz A. Boustani, M.D., discuss the mission of the Center for Innovation and Implementation Science.

Medicine.

· At Roudebush VA Medical Center, Michael Weiner, M.D., director of the IU Center for Health Services and Outcomes Research, director of the Center of Excellence on Implementing Evidence-Based Practice at Roudebush VA Health Services Research & Development and associate professor of medicine at the IU School of Medicine.

· At Riley Hospital, Stephen M. Downs, M.D., Jean and Jerry Bepko Professor of Pediatrics at the IU School of Medicine.

"The goals of the CIIS fit perfectly with the mission of the Indiana CTSI," said Anantha Shekhar, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Indiana CTSI and associate dean for translational research and Raymond E. Houk Professor of Psychiatry at the IU School of Medicine. "The Indiana CTSI aims to break down barriers to safely and effectively translate new discoveries into new treatments and therapies. CIIS will provide a partner within the state's top health care systems focused on ways to quickly and efficiently implement innovations and ensure that they reach patients and transform our health care practices."

The center will also provide a platform to attract federal funds to Indiana through special government programs focused on health care innovation, including the [Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation](#) and the [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Initiatives](#), a U.S.-based non-governmental institute created in response to the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#). The first of these grants was a \$7.8 million CMS Innovation Award earned by this initiative in August 2012 to fund the rapid expansion of the [Healthy Aging Brain Care Program](#), a dementia care management system, to 11 community health centers at Eskenazi Health and IU Health Arnett Hospital in Lafayette.

Other projects implemented by the IISI include a computerized "dashboard" to objectively measure operating room quality, safety and efficiency at IU Health Methodist Hospital; in-to out-patient care system changes to reduce hospital stays for chemotherapy patients at the IU Health Simon Cancer Center; and a strategy to provide special mental health interventions to IU Health Plan members with chronic conditions and depression to lower costs and improve care within the system.

"The IISI's achievements over the past year have been remarkable," said David S. Wilkes, M.D., executive associate dean for research affairs and August M. Watanabe Professor of Medical Research at the IU School of Medicine. "The energy and enthusiasm that Dr. Boustani has poured into ushering this initiative to center status is a testament to his ability to translate theory into practice at a lightning-fast pace, and representative of what the IU School of Medicine expects this center to achieve across our partners in the local health care system."

Implementation science is uniquely situated to solve difficult health care problems due to its data-driven focus on efficacy and scalability, said Nadia Adams, executive director of the CIIS. The discipline puts a strong emphasis on evidence-based solutions to "real world" problems with methods such as controlling limited budgets through resource management; managing human factors through organizational psychology, behavioral psychology and behavioral economics; and correcting "failed solutions" through strong project evaluation methods.

"Implementing a solution is a dynamic, never-ending process which takes place within an ever-changing environment," Adams said. "Some scientists feel that after they publish a study, they should simply move onto the next challenge. We're saying more thought needs to be applied to how the ideas in journal articles can go on to impact thousands, or millions, of lives -- not only the number of patients in a research study."

Dr. Boustani added that the center aims to strike a balance between the strengths of both academic medicine and corporate health care.

"Over the next five years," he said, "our goal is no less than to transform our health care partners into truly adaptive health care systems that constantly provide excellent value to patients -- and their communities."

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CTSI support speeds hunt for new genetic markers for breast cancer risk

Jan. 14, 2014

As a member of one of the first teams to use cutting-edge techniques to assess the genetic risk of breast cancer, Chunyan He, Sc.D., joined IU uniquely positioned to further push innovation in this arena. However, as a young investigator, she needed a sponsor willing to take a risk on an untested idea.

The recipient of a 2010 pilot grant from the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, Dr. He has been working to advance a project that combines genome-wide association studies, or GWAS, with global gene expression profiling -- two techniques that may soon provide important insights into genetic risk factors for cancer, including their underlying molecular processes.

"Our ultimate goal is to find and understand the mechanisms behind the genes causing the cancer," said Dr. He, assistant professor at the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health and a member of the IU Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center. "When you identify these causal genes, they open the window for early detection and help with early intervention for the patients and treatments."

GWAS is a form of analysis used to discover the genetic variations in the human genome associated with disease risk. For gene expression profiling, Dr. He employs next-generation RNA-sequencing technology to measure the activity, or expression, inside thousands of genes to create an overall view of cellular function at the whole genome level.

Yet despite yielding promising preliminary results, and subsequent industrial funding, Dr. He's project almost didn't get off the ground. It wasn't until she presented her proposals to the Indiana CTSI's [Project Development Team](#) program -- which provides free consultations and access to resources such as funding, data analysis and lab technologies to investigators pursuing novel research topics with strong potential to quickly translate into clinical practice -- that she earned crucial start-up funds to perform a feasibility study using about 20 samples from the Komen Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center. The \$20,000 pilot grant was provided by the Indiana CTSI PDT focused on behavioral and population science -- one of eight PDTs at the Indiana CTSI.

Dr. He said the funds contributed to performing the first steps required to reveal the power of combining GWAS with gene expression profiling. Although GWAS reveal breast cancer-associated genetic variations that can act as genetic markers for breast cancer, she said a GWAS approach alone is ultimately limited because identifying genetic variations does not necessarily lead to identification of causal genes or shed light on mechanisms underlying the disease's development and spread.

The solution? Gene expression profiling, which can dig deeper into the underlying mechanisms that fuel cancer cell development and growth. However, Dr. He said many researchers are limited by their inability to access truly healthy breast tissue.

Most scientists are dependent upon comparing tumor tissues removed during surgery to tumor-adjacent tissue contributed from the same patient, which already contains aberrantly expressed genes as the spread of the tumor affects the surrounding tissue. Access to samples from the Komen Tissue Bank, the only source of healthy breast tissue in the world, provides the rare opportunity to compare truly healthy tissue with tumor tissue to more accurately pinpoint the differences between cancerous and normal genes.

"The limitation to the GWAS approach is you know you're going to find disease-associated genetic variations, but you really don't know how they



Chunyan He, Sc.D.



Dr. He accepts a check for \$100,000 from the Kay Yow Cancer Fund on March 30, 2011.

work or how they're related to breast cancer since the underlying molecular mechanisms are still largely unknown," Dr. He said. "Combining GWAS and gene expression profiling, you can identify causal genes whose expression is regulated by these genetic variations, and those genes can act as pre-cursors to breast cancer development -- powerful targets for drugs designed to treat tumor as well as molecular markers for early detection since early changes in their expression drive tumor formation."

"You can really see that the normal cells from the Komen Tissue Bank are very different from the other 'normal' cells, since tumor-adjacent cells aren't really normal; they're already more similar to cancer cells as the tumor sends signals to the nearby environment in order to facilitate their spread," she added.

Based on the result of the feasibility study, Dr. He earned \$400,000 from ExpressionAnalysis, a North-Carolina based genomics service company, to advance the project on March 30, 2011. (In a coincidence, she also earned \$100,000 on the same date from the [Kay Yow Cancer Fund](#), in partnership with the V Foundation for Cancer Research, to advance a separate breast cancer project.)

Dr. He is well-positioned to pursue this next generation approach to GWAS due to her experience as an early pioneer conducting research using the technology. As a doctoral student at Harvard University, she was a member of one of the first groups supported by the National Cancer Institute's [Cancer Genetic Markers of Susceptibility Project](#) in a cutting-edge project that analyzed breast cancer data using information from the Nurses Health Study. The study was a landmark project that has collected long-term health data every two years from 120,000 nurses across the United States in 11 states, since 1976. The results of this study were published in the journal "Nature Genetics" in 2009.

"[BRCA1 and BRCA2] are the most famous breast cancer genes discovered in the pre-GWAS era, but breast cancer-associated mutations in these genes are actually very uncommon," Dr. He said. "I'm aiming to discover genetic markers that are much more common among the general population in order to assess breast cancer risk among a larger proportion of patients."

In addition to early funding, Dr. He said that experts from the Indiana CTSI provided important advice on topics outside her area of expertise, including potential intellectual property issues related to future discovery.

"One of the implications of this approach is the potential to discover, and patent, novel genes related to breast cancer risk," Dr. He said. "But patent issues are very new to me -- they simply weren't on my radar -- so I hadn't really considered the intellectual property issues involved in moving any discoveries that might arise from this work toward new industrial testing kits for disease."

Dr. He also said the novel approach used in the study isn't limited to breast cancer, as the integrative approach has the potential to advance research on other cancer types, including lung or testicular. In fact, she's already pursuing a collaboration related to testicular cancer research with fellow scientists at the IU Simon Cancer Center.

Additional next steps include awaiting the results of a new application for \$1.5 million to the NIH's New Innovators Award Program built upon the strength of her research funded by ExpressionAnalysis and, earlier, the Indiana CTSI.

"When I first joined IU, I had this idea of linking the gene expression with the GWAS, but as a junior scientist without a long research history, you've got to show people you can carry out the experiments in reality," she said. "I want to thank the Indiana CTSI for having the vision to help fund this project."

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Translational scholar "pays it forward" through student mentorship

Jan. 14, 2014

When she was named a [Watanabe Translational Scholar](#) at the fifth annual Indiana CTSI meeting in September, Melissa Kacena, Ph.D., an associate professor of orthopaedic surgery at the IU School of Medicine, spoke about the importance of mentorship on her own career, including the early support she received from the Indiana CTSI as an fellow under its Young Investigators Program.

Now a National Institutes of Health-support scholar with an active research lab, Melissa Kacena, Ph.D., works tirelessly to "pay it forward" through her role as an educator as well as a researcher. In fact, she has grown well known for the large number of interns she welcomes each year into her offices in the Fesler Hall, where she strives to provide each student a chance to strengthen both their research skills and their sense of professionalism -- a lesson intended to guide them throughout their lives no matter what their chosen field.

"I think there needs to be great emphasis and awareness on professional etiquette and development among students in the lab," said Dr. Kacena, whose National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases-supported projects focus on developing more effective therapies and compounds to treat broken bones. "I don't just focus on the research; I think it's really about making my interns and researchers better people, so that they are better suited for their future careers."

Several students in Dr. Kacena's lab over the years can also thank the Indiana CTSI for the chance to study in an advanced research environment as a participants in [Project Seed](#), a summer research program for local high school students, or the [Student Research Program in Academic Medicine](#), a summer research program for medical students, both of which are sponsored in part by the [Indiana CTSI](#).

Other programs who provide students to Dr. Kacena's lab include the IU School of Medicine's [Undergraduate Research for Prospective Physician-Scientists](#) Program, [Life-Health Sciences Internship Program](#), and the IUPUI Center for Research and Learning's [Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement](#) and [Undergraduate Research Opportunity](#) programs

Moreover, since many participants have limited laboratory experience going into what's often their first internship, Dr. Kacena aims to give each a small segment of a larger research project, allowing them to delve a bit deeper into a specific area than they might normally, while also ensuring their tasks remain general enough to assist in future lab assignments in other disciplines.

"There's so much you can learn from being part of a research or internship program," said Tomas Meijome, a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania who served as an intern in Dr. Kacena's lab this summer following his senior year at the School of Science at IUPUI. " There are two aspects to it: You're getting a mentor who is your support system, and you're getting that research mindset early on."

The role of mentors in her growth as a researcher was an important factor in her decision to work closely with students beyond the classroom in her own career, added Dr. Kacena, who attributes much of her professional success to her professors at the University of Colorado, where she earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in science, as well as the Yale University School of Medicine, where she served as a post-doctoral fellow.

Yet a belief in the benefits of working alongside faculty doesn't mean she keeps discipline lax. Dr. Kacena expects a great deal from her interns -- requiring they take their independent tasks seriously, participate in weekly lab meetings, and, after they've spent enough time learning about each others



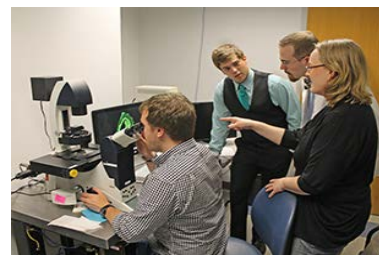
Members

of Dr. Kacena's lab, including this past summer's interns, are, from left to right, front row, seated, Yinghua Cheng, M.D., Ph.D., a research associate; Lesch, Engle, Monique Bethel, M.D., a postdoctoral fellow; and back row, standing, Dr. Kacena; Meijome and Naomie Olivos, a Ph.D. student with the IU School of Medicine Biomedical Gateway Graduate Program.



Dr.

Kacena with Engle and Bethel.



Dr. Melissa

Kacena, Ph.D., with Nicholas Lesh, Tomas Meijome and Andrew Engle in the lab. Lesh and Engle are IUPUI undergraduates. Meijome is an IUPUI graduate studying at the University of Pennsylvania.

work, collaborate and contribute intellectually to their colleagues' assignment.

One other important rule, which occasionally takes students slightly aback, is a "zero tolerance" policy on smart phones during meetings.

With many past interns going on to medical school or postgraduate education, Dr. Kacena doesn't plan to stop welcoming students in her lab any time soon. Yet knowing that the research field is not for everyone, she also reiterates that her goal isn't to simply to cultivate strong research skills but to install a larger sense of discipline and motivation -- to encourage hard work and the desire to learn as much as possible from every opportunity.

" I am not just a research mentor; I am an overall mentor teaching my students and interns life skills," she said. " We need to instill these skills and attitudes in everyone -- our future doctors, researchers, and professionals alike. "

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State financial leader pays a visit to the Indiana CTSI

Jan. 14, 2014

An Indiana public finance leader recently met with members of the Indiana CTSI to learn more about vital role the institute plays in the state's economy through its mission to translate new discoveries from bench to bedside.

Matt Hawkins, chief financial officer and assistant director of the [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#), toured several of CTSI-affiliated sites on Monday, Dec. 9, as part of a larger visit to the IUPUI campus. The visit was organized in collaboration with the [IU Office of Government Relations](#).

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is a 14-member public group whose duties include defining the educational missions of public colleges and universities; planning and coordinating Indiana's state-supported system of post-secondary education; and reviewing budget requests from public institutions. Hawkins joined the commission on July 8.

The sites visited by Hawkins were the [Children's Clinical Research Center](#); [Indiana CTSI Specimen Storage Facility](#); and [Indiana Institute for Biomedical Imaging Sciences](#), a core facility of the Indiana CTSI.

Scott Denne, M.D., associate director of the Indiana CTSI and director of the CCRC, kicked off the visit with a brief overview of the Indiana CTSI's accomplishments over the past six years, including the institute's estimated 19-to-1 return on investment from 2008 to 2012, with \$3.5 million in grants to scientists across the state attracting \$65 million in federal research dollars and private investment over the same period, as well as involvement in six technology licenses, 18 discovery disclosures, 22 patents and eight start-up companies.

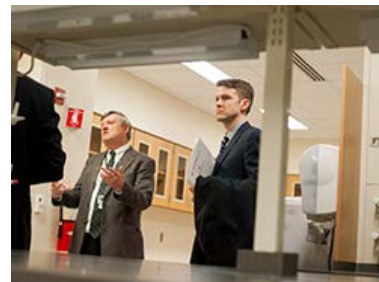
The CCRC was selected for the tour in part because the location of clinical facilities immediately adjacent to laboratory space vividly illustrates the translational research process, with busy scientists at work mere feet from physician-patient interactions with lively toddlers.

Hawkins also viewed images from the 2010 visit of the facility by state and national political leaders, including U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, National Institutes Director Francis Collins and Indiana Congressman Andre Carson, who toured the space prior to its renovation as part of a visit to IU announcing the [\\$8.5 million grant](#) that created the center.

During the visit to IIBIS, Gary Hutchins, M.D., director of the institute and John W. Beeler Professor of Radiology at the IU School of Medicine, discussed the many highly advanced imaging resources at the center, including research-level MRI technology and an innovative tube system that transports radioisotopes from the [Biotechnology Research and Training Center](#) cyclotron to the IIBIS across 1.5 miles in 90 seconds for injection into patients in order to track the metabolism of new clinical compounds.

A highlight at the tour of the Indiana CTSI Specimen Storage Facility was the opportunity to view the storage of new samples in liquid nitrogen tanks, including the many safety precautions required to store biospecimens at extreme low temperature. Liliith Reeves, MS, chief technology officer for the Indiana CTSI, also discussed the many high-impact collections maintained at the facility, including the [National Cell Repository for Alzheimer Disease](#) and the [Komen Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center](#), the world's only collection of healthy breast tissue.

In addition, Reeves emphasized growth of the facility over the past several years -- representative of the institute's overall growth and impact -- with more than 80 mechanical freezers and a secondary site at the VanNuys Medical Science Building.



Scott Denne, M.D., left, associate director of the Indiana CTSI, tours lab space at the Children's Clinical Research Center with Matt Hawkins, CFO for the Indiana Commission on Higher Education.



Hawkins speaks with Garry Hutchins, M.D., director of the Indiana Institute for Biomedical Imaging Sciences.



Liliith Reeves, M.S., discusses the Indiana CTSI Specimen Storage Facility.



A SSF technician places fresh biospecimens into storage.

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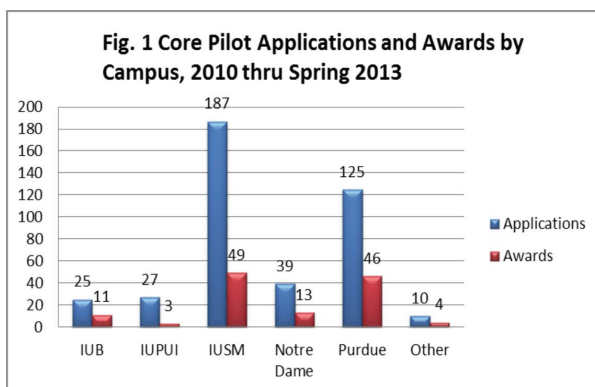
CTSI leaders present review of core pilot program

Jan. 14, 2014

The Indiana CTSI serves a wide variety of investigators working on projects that impact human health. One program that has seeks to foster research is the Indiana CTSI Core Pilot Grant program, which provides up to \$10,000 in services in service cores throughout Indiana University, Purdue University, and the University of Notre Dame.

In a recent review of the the Core Pilot Grant Program, Kenneth Cornetta, Ph.D., director of the Access Technology Program at the Indiana CTSI and professor and chair of medical and molecular genetics at the IU School of Medicine, led a project to understand the user base of this resource. Since the program was initiated in 2010, there have been 413 applications and 126 awards across the CTSI member institutions.

Figure 1 shows the success rate of applicants from each institution. The difference in success rate relates to the number of applicants and the funds available at the respective institution.

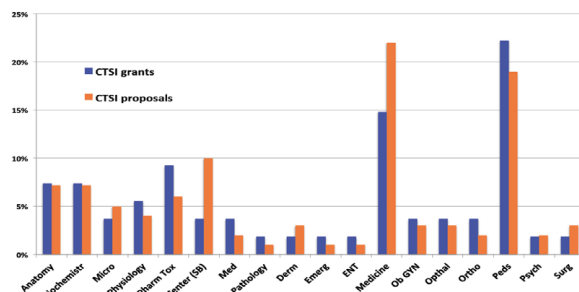


Click to enlarge

Within the IU School of Medicine, the use of the program was evaluated to understand the use by clinical and basic science departments.

As shown in Figure 2, there was participation by most of the Departments within the School of Medicine. For the majority of Departments, the success rate for applications correlated with the number of applications.

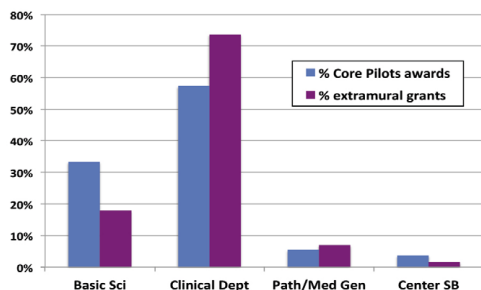
Figure 2. Percentage of all proposals and awards by department



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The major outliers were the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics. The awards paralleled the relative amount of extramural research dollars received by each department (Figure 3).

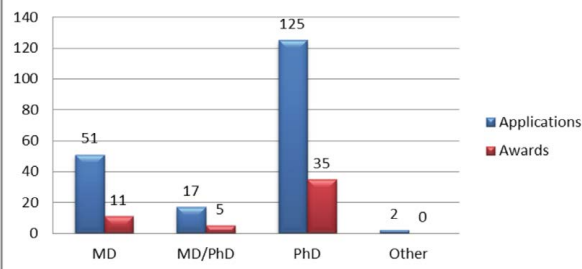
Figure 3. Percentage of core pilot awards compared to percentage of total extramural grants at IUSM



Click to enlarge

When the awards received in clinical versus basic science departments within the IU School of Medicine are compared, 57 percent of the awards went to investigators in a clinical department (Figure 4).

Fig. 4 Core Pilot Grant Applications and Awards for IUSM Faculty by Degree, 2010 thru Spring 2013

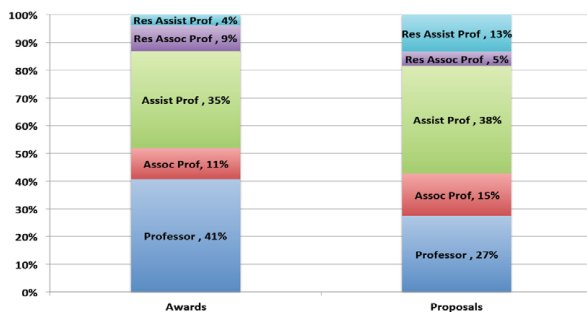


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Interestingly, the majority of award recipients did not hold a M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degree, suggesting that even those investigators awarded Core Pilot Grants in the clinical department were conducting basic research.

We also evaluated the rank of award recipients (Figure 5). Those at the professor rank fared better in review, a finding consistent with the experience of senior faculty in developing a competitive research program.

Figure 5. Results of 195 proposals and 54 Awards in the IUSM: distribution by rank of applicant



Click to enlarge

This finding is consistent with one of the goals of the program, to provide an internal grant program that can enhance retention of mid-level and senior faculty by providing resources to foster new research directions.

In summary, a review of the use of the CTSI Core Pilot Grant Program by IU School of Medicine faculty finds that awards are provided to investigators throughout the school. Individuals conducting basic research were the predominant awardees, documenting the commitment of the Indiana CTSI to providing assistance to investigators at all levels of the translational research pipeline.

To learn more about the Indiana CTSI Core Pilot Grant Program, contact Lilith Reeves at lreeves@iu.edu.

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Dimmitt named director of finance

Jan. 14, 2014

Robert J. Dimmitt, MBA, has been named the director of finance for the Indiana CTSI.

Dimmitt, who previously served as the associate director for research administration at the IU School of Medicine, will begin in this position on Feb. 10.

Dimmitt contributes 12 years of experience in research and higher education administration to the Indiana CTSI, including contract negotiations; strategic planning, finance and budgeting; government compliance; and service operations. In this position, he will provide financial leadership for the implementation of strategic directions in the comprehensive and integrated approach to clinical and translational research.

Other duties and responsibilities include assisting in the overall management of finances of Indiana CTSI programs, goals and activities, and contributing to the overall management of Indiana CTSI finances to ensure successful planning, and appropriately administered sponsored research to optimize the activities of CTSI. He will also be responsible for managing all budgeting and accounting of CTSI activities and implement processes to ensure fiscal compliance with all related regulations and policies.

In addition to associate director of research administration, Dimmitt's previous experience at IU includes service as an assistant director of research administration at the IU School of Medicine and as a grants services manager for the IU Office of Research Administration. Prior to IU, he served in a variety of position at Purdue University, including an assistant director of pre-award services and a senior account manager in the Office of Sponsored Program Services as well as a business manager in the departments of Mathematics and Statistics and Physics.

Dimmitt holds a master's in business administration and a bachelor's of science in management from the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University.

He succeeds Lisa Dinsmore, MBA, who was named the director of finance and administration for the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health in October.

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Robert J.

Dimmitt, MBA


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Indiana CTSI Opportunities — January 2014

Jan. 14, 2014

Several Indiana CTSI funding programs will accept applications in February. They are:

Predocutorial Training Awards in Translational Research -- applications due Feb. 3, 2014

The Indiana CTSI is seeking applicants for special predoctoral training awards in translational research.

In biomedical terminology, translational research refers to what is popularly termed as "bench to bedside"; the process by which research in the lab translates into patient treatment. Translation may involve applying discoveries made during research (in the lab, through animal studies, etc.) to the development of clinical trials and studies in humans, or carrying out research aimed at enhancing the adoption of best practices, or both.

To be eligible, candidates must be a second or third year pre-doctoral graduate student at one of the CTSI partner institutions: Indiana University, Purdue University or the University of Notre Dame.

Opportunities available for CTSI Pre-doctoral Trainees include:

- Annual stipend comparable to other pre-doctoral training positions (\$24,500)
- Partial tuition and fees for coursework relevant to the applicant's research
- Mentoring with a faculty member whose research program includes peer reviewed, extramurally funded clinical or translational research
- Networking with other pre- and post-doctoral trainees, program mentors, and allied researchers from multiple institutions in Indiana to develop a cross-disciplinary community of scientists
- Attendance at a national meeting that involves similar trainees from 40 other medical schools and research institutions
- Funding is for one year and is renewable for one additional year based upon progress attained

Applications are due **Monday, Feb. 3**. To apply, visit www.indianactsi.org/grants and log in using your institutional username and password.

Applications instructions are under " CTSI Predocutorial Training Awards in Translational Research - 2014.02 (TL1)."

Interested candidates must be prescreened for eligibility. Submit a copy of your CV to Dr. Colleen Gabauer in advance of the application deadline at ictsi@purdue.edu by no later than **Monday, Jan. 20**.

Indiana CTSI Postdoctoral Training Awards (K Scholars) -- applications due Feb. 7, 2014

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute is seeking applicants for postdoctoral training awards in translational research.

Funding is for two years with the second year of funding contingent upon review and demonstration of satisfactory progress. Benefits include salary support as well as health insurance. This award is available to postdoctoral fellows only.

Funded research projects must translational in nature. Applicants must also identify two faculty investigators mentors from at least two different disciplines, preferably a clinician or clinician-scientist and a basic or non-clinician PhD scientist. Trainees will be required to attend a National Clinical and Translational Science Association meeting and present at several Indiana CTSI gatherings during the academic year.

Translational research refers to what is popularly termed "bench to bedside," the process by which research in the lab "translates" into patient treatment. Translation may involve applying discoveries made during research (in the lab, through animal studies, etc.) to the development of clinical trials and studies in humans, or carrying out research aimed at enhancing the adoption of best practices, or both.

These two types of translational research are usually described as consisting of either "T1 research," or basic biomedical research, such as study disease at a molecular or cellular level as it progresses to the development of new treatment options at the clinical level and "T2 research," or enhancing access to and the adoption of evidence-based strategies in clinical and community practice, institutionalizing programs, products and services to improve health.

Candidates must have started their current positions no earlier than Jan. 27, 2011, and no later than July 27, 2013. The application process mirrors an abbreviated NIH National Research Service Award (NRSA) for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (F32). Applicants are encouraged to apply for the F32 during their first year of support. More information on the NRSA program is available from the National Institutes of Health.

Criteria for application include a Ph.D. or equivalent degree from an accredited domestic or foreign institution and status as a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. These postdoctoral fellowships may not be used to support studies leading to the MD, DO, DDS, DVM, or similar health-professional degree. Neither may these awards be used to support the clinical years of residency training.

Applications are due **Friday, Feb. 7**, and awards will start by early to mid-March, 2014. To apply, visit www.indianactsi.org/grants and log in using your institutional username and password.

Applications instructions are under "CTSI Postdoctoral Training Awards in Translational Research - 2014.02."

Interested candidates who need assistance identifying an appropriate co-mentor should contact the Indiana CTSI research navigator at their home institution. They are Tammy Sajdyk, Ph.D. at 317-278-7488; or tsajdyk@iu.edu (IUPUI, IU School of Medicine); Yvonne Lai, Ph.D., at 206-679-2032 or yylai@indiana.edu (IU-Bloomington); Tommy Sors, Ph.D., at 765-494-1678 or tsors@purdue.edu (Purdue University); and Andrew Bullock, Ph.D., MBA, at 574-631-2136 or sabullock@nd.edu.

Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund Grant Program -- due Feb. 17

The Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund is accepting applications to support research related to treatment and cure of spinal cord and brain injuries.

This includes research related to the prevention, treatment and cure of spinal cord and brain injuries, including acute management, medical complications, rehabilitative techniques and neuronal recovery.

Because the nature and scope of the research proposed may vary, it is anticipated that the size of each award may also vary. Applications to this program are considered small grants and should have a maximum requested amount of \$60,000 per year. All applications should be limited to two-year duration.

Eligible principal investigators must be based in Indiana and have the education, skills, knowledge and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research.

Applications are due **5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17**. To apply, visit <http://www.in.gov/isdh/23657.htm> or www.indianactsi.org/grants and log in using your institutional username and password.

Applications instructions on the Indiana CTSI HUB are under "Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund Grant Program - 2014.02 (SCBI)."

Awards pursuant to this RFP are contingent upon the availability of funds and the receipt of a sufficient number of meritorious applications as determined by an independent scientific advisory panel, the Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Board, and/or the Indiana State Department of Health.

The Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund was established by the State of Indiana effective July 1, 2007.

Questions to Julie Driscoll at ictsi@iu.edu.

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Research Coordinator EDUcation Program training

The next "level one" session of the Research Coordinator EDUcation Program is **Tuesday, Feb. 11**.

RCEDU sessions are offered as part of a four-step research coordinator training system implemented under the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute in collaboration with the Indiana University Office of Research Compliance. The initiative aims to effort to create a "continuum of research coordinator education" that supports the highest level of integrity and promotes career paths in research.

The program's focuses on what employees should know before they begin to interact with subjects in a significant way. Example topics to be addressed include the informed consent process and documentation and basics of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Attendance of this program is mandatory for staff who are newly-hired in the IUSM in the following job classifications: PAEHE, PAO2RS, PAE3RS, PAE4RS. However, anyone engaged in human subjects research is welcome to attend (such as Clinical Study Technicians) or those employed in other health/life science schools. The program should be attended within the first 2-12 weeks of employment.

Level one sessions are offered monthly. Walk-ins are not accepted. To register for the program, please complete the following form: [Level 1 Registration Form](#).

The next "level two" session is **March 13-14**. Registration is at <http://nursing.iupui.edu/continuing/rcep/researchcoordinator.shtml>. For more information, visit <http://www.indianactsi.org/training/coordinators> or email rceducat@iupui.edu.

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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