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IU Cancer Research Institute dedicated

Nearly 300 people were in attendance Tuesday, Sept. 30, when the Indiana University Cancer Research Institute was formally dedicated.

David G. Nathan, MD, president of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, presented the keynote address.

Longtime supporter of cancer research, Joseph E. Walther, MD, received an honorary doctor of science degree. Dr. Walther is the founder and benefactor of the Walther Cancer Foundation and the Walther Cancer Institute, which have supported cancer research, primarily at IUSM, for the past decade.

Former patients, researchers, physicians and nurses, as well as dignitaries and contributors attended the event conducted under a tent on Walnut Street, just east of the IU Cancer Research Institute.

The new building is, in a sense, a companion building to the Indiana Cancer Pavilion. Both buildings are designed to enhance communication among those involved in clinical care and research.

Funding for the two buildings was made possible with \$20 million in federal funds secured by former Rep. John T. Myers, R-Ind. The Cancer Research Institute also received \$12 million in philanthropic contributions to IUSM.

Research Highlights

IL-11 is an example of basic laboratory research that has come full circle to now helping patients. IUSM researchers Yu-Chung Yang, PhD, and David Williams, MD, discovered IL-11 in 1990 when Yang was at Genetics Institute in Boston and Williams was at Harvard University. They and others have continued the research at IUSM which has become a leader in IL-11 research.

IUSM operates one of only three NIH-funded gene vector production labs in the U.S. The lab creates the vectors necessary for gene therapy. Laboratory director Ken Cornetta, MD, was involved with some of the initial vector research at the NIH.

IU is one of seven institutions nationwide participating in a five-year \$26.7 million NIH study on the use of umbilical cord blood for transplantation. If cord blood is shown to be as successful as bone marrow in stem cell transplants, it could substantially reduce the wait for a transplant, says Frank Smith, MD, principal investigator on the IU study.

A possible predictor of breast cancer survivability has been identified by Michael Stender, MD, and George Sledge, MD. Research continues on Her-2, a protein produced by a specific gene found in some breast cancer cells.

New Director

Randall L. Braddom, MD, has been named medical director of Wishard Health Services rehabilitation services.

Dr. Braddom is chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He joined the IUSM faculty in July 1991.

Earlier this year, Dr. Braddom was awarded the John Eisele Davis Memorial Award by the American Kinesiotherapy Association, the highest award bestowed by the organization on a non-kinesiotherapist.

National Honors

Douglas P. Zipes, MD, director of the Krannert Institute of Cardiology and director of the Section of Cardiology, will be the keynote speaker at the 40th Annual Conference and Convocation of the American Academy of Medical Administrators, Nov. 7 in Orlando, Fla.

At this conference, Dr. Zipes will be awarded the 1997 Nycomed Award for Excellence. The award acknowledges outstanding contributions and leadership in cardiovascular health care.

On Nov. 11, Dr. Zipes will be awarded the James B. Herrick Award from the American Heart Association for his scientific achievements in clinical cardiology. He will speak at the Council on Clinical Cardiology annual dinner.

New faculty

New faculty in the Department of Neurology:

David H. Mattson, MD, PhD, associate professor of neurology and director of the Neuroimmunology/Multiple Sclerosis Program, joined the faculty July 1.

Dr. Mattson comes to IUSM from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry where he was director of ambulatory care in the Department of Neurology, and chief of the general neurology unit.

A current member of the Medical Advisory Board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Dr. Mattson received his MD and PhD at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He completed post-doctoral training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, the National Institutes of Health neuroimmunology branch and was an honorary assistant house physician at The National Hospital in London.

Charles C. Flippen II, MD, visiting clinical instructor, joined the Department of Neurology Sept. 1. He specializes in the treatment of headaches and will see patients in the new Mark L. Dyken, MD, Neurology Outpatient Center. His main interests are hormonal influences on migraines and the economic and societal impact of headaches.

Dr. Flippen recently completed a headache fellowship at Henry Ford Health System and Case Western Reserve University. He received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School, completed an internal medicine internship at Henry Ford Health System and his neurology residency at the University of Maryland Medical System.

New faculty in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology:

Renee A. Bobrowski, MD, assistant professor in the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, joined the faculty July 1.

She received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and completed her ob/gyn residency at IU. Dr. Bobrowski also has completed fellowships in maternal-fetal medicine and critical care obstetrics at Hutzel Hospital at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Her husband, Jeffery S. Dzieczkowski, MD, is currently completing a medicine residency at IU.

Scope Submissions

**There are three easy ways to submit story ideas or information to SCOPE:
-- fax the information to 278-3502;**

-- e-mail the information to mhardin@iupui.edu;

-- or mail the information to Mary Hardin, LO 401, IUPUI.

The deadline for copy is 8:30 a.m. Mondays, the week prior to publication.

Honors

Meredith R. Hole, administrator of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and of Associated Orthopaedic Surgeons, Inc., has been elected president of the Association of Academic Orthopaedic Administrators. Beginning in January, Hole also will be president-elect for Indiana Medical Group Manager Administrators.

Susan J. Gunst, PhD, a professor of physiology and biophysics, has been selected to serve as a member of the NIH Respiratory and Applied Physiology Study Section, Division of Research Grants. Her term will end June 30, 2001.

Robert D. Yee, MD, chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, has received a grant of \$100,000 from Research to Prevent Blindness. To date, RPB has given grants to IU totaling \$884,000.

Varmus to receive 1997 Beering Award

Faculty and students are invited to attend the 1997 Beering Lecture by the Nobel Laureate Harold E. Varmus, MD, director of the National Institutes of Health. The lecture will be at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, in the University Place Conference Center auditorium.

Dr. Varmus, whose presentation is entitled, "The Origins of Cancer," is the recipient of the 1997 Steven C. Beering Award for Advancement of Biomedical or Clinical Science presented by the IU School of Medicine. He was nominated for his influence on biomedical research and his ability to explain complex scientific issues in simplified terms to the American public.

The Beering Award is presented annually to a research scientist in honor of Steven Beering, MD, who served as dean of IUSM from 1974 to 1983. Dr. Beering currently is president of Purdue University.

Dr. Varmus also will address the first- and second-year medical students at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, in the Emerson Hall auditorium. The title of his presentation will be "Genes, Mice, and Cancer."

Dr. Varmus received his medical degree from Columbia University. He was a professor of microbiology, biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco. He shared the 1989 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine with J. Michael Bishop, MD, for demonstrating that oncogenes can arise from normal cellular genes.

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