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Award gives IU edge in women's health

Indiana University School of Medicine has been named one of this year's six designated National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health. Funding for the initiative is provided through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Program director Rose S. Fife, MD, said the initiative is funded for four years. The purpose is to develop a coordinated national resource center consisting of programs to provide for comprehensive women's health care, education for both the public and health care professionals, and research into women's health issues. This will be accomplished through a collaborative effort, based at IUSM, and involving 15 community organizations including the Indiana State Department of Health.

The Center of Excellence designation will provide IUSM with the leverage to seek additional funding from sources at the local, regional and national levels in order to expand and improve programs, Dr. Fife said.

The Center supports a unique approach to program development that will utilize the extraordinary wealth of expertise that exists at IUSM and its collaborating partners to build a comprehensive and coordinated women's health care program in Indiana, incorporating health care professional training, cultural sensitivity and awareness, clinical care, and research. It is hoped the program can serve as a national model.

Approaches to achieving the goals include

- Development of a multidisciplinary research component involving basic and clinical science;
- Clinical health services for women at all ages of life, providing an integrated concept of health care delivery that will include both mental and physical health care, as well as education of women and their providers regarding preventive medicine;
- Increased participation and retention of women as subjects in clinical trials;
- Initiation of programs to improve the recruitment and retention of female students and faculty and the advancement of women at IUSM;
- Development of education resources for the lay public dealing with women's issues, including the creation and maintenance of a database of local and regional information sources on women's

health;

- Develop and evaluate culturally appropriate and sensitive training of health care professionals in women's health and incorporate such training into all levels of education at the medical school;
 - Develop and disseminate information regarding women's health to all types of users in a variety of ways including new publications, conferences and educational materials;
 - Determine the current health status of American women, particularly those in Indiana, by analyzing existing databases and developing new strategies for collection of data;
 - Develop collaborations with the regional women's health coordinators of the U.S. Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health;
 - Assist with expansion of the new IUSM Faculty Development Program which is directed toward the advancement of women on the faculty;
 - Identify consumers and develop consumer training programs to develop a group of women who can serve in membership and leadership roles in national and local policy, advisory and review group.
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Flu shots

Free flu shots are available while supplies last for faculty and staff.

The Student and Employee Health Services in Coleman Hall is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. No appointments are necessary.

Questions may be addressed to 274-1019.

50 years observed

The 50th anniversary of the cooperative agreement between IUSM and Roudebush VA Medical Center was celebrated Thursday, Oct. 16, with a dinner program at the Indianapolis Westin Hotel.

VA Under Secretary for Health Kenneth W. Kizer, MD, MPH, was the keynote speaker. Dean Emeritus Walter J. Daly provided the nearly 200 attendees with a glimpse at the history of the partnership.

The event, hosted by Dean Robert W. Holden, MD, was organized to showcase the success of the 50-year-old program and to help perpetuate its continuation.

Guests included Rep. Steven Buyer, R-Ind., who is chair of the House National Security Committee's Subcommittee on

Military Personnel, and individuals involved with treatment and care of veterans at Roudebush VA Medical Center.

Honors

Louis B. Cantor, MD, associate professor of Ophthalmology and director of the IU Glaucoma Service, has been named residency program director for the Department of Ophthalmology.

At the American Academy of Ophthalmology 1997 annual meeting, Dr. Cantor was named ophthalmologist of the Year by Indiana's academy.

Michael V. Ney, MHA, director of administration and informatics for the Department of Surgery, has been elected president of the Indiana Community Network Association. The association represents more than 30 community networks in Indiana, including Indianapolis OnLine.

Mr. Ney also was recently appointed to the Indiana State Library Advisory Committee.

James Vannoy Faris, MD, associate professor of medicine and radiology, and **Stephen Jay, MD**, assistant dean and professor of medicine, have been named officers in the Indianapolis Medical Society. Dr. Faris is president-elect and Dr. Jay has been named to the board of directors.

Leo J. McCarthy, MD director of transfusion medicine and professor of medicine and of pathology and laboratory medicine, is the recipient of the 1997 Victor H. Muller Award. Dr. McCarthy received the award Oct. 9 during the annual meeting of the Indiana State Association of Blood Banks.

The award is presented annually to an individual with acknowledged contributions to transfusion medicine, blood banking and transfusion services.

Mitesh V. Shah, MD, assistant professor of neurosurgery, has been appointed secretary of the Young Neurological Surgeons Committee of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. His term runs through October 1998.

Faculty symposium abstracts sought

The IUSM Faculty Scientific Symposium will be Jan. 30 at the University Place Conference Center.

Abstracts for poster and oral platform presentations are currently being solicited. The deadline for submission is Nov. 15. Abstracts should be less than 200 words and may be submitted in either WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format to Karen West, MD. The abstracts may be sent through campus mail to Dr. West at Riley 2500 or via e-mail at karenw@iusurg.iupui.edu. Questions may be addressed to Dr. West by calling 274-4682.

The Faculty Scientific Symposium is held biennially and provides the opportunity for IUSM faculty to share their research endeavors with their peers. A luncheon is part of the day-long program. During the 1996 conference, more than 200 abstracts were presented.

Scope tidbits

IUSM staff members who are not receiving SCOPE or who are getting their copy late because it is being forwarded from a previous office address may rectify the problem by contacting IUPUI Human Resources.

To obtain an address change, a personal data sheet or a memo complete with the employee's Social Security number and new campus address, must be sent to Human Resources Section,
UN 359.

Grants

Robert Bigsby, PhD, director of research in obstetrics and gynecology, has been awarded a two-year \$300,000 grant entitled "Novel Mechanisms of Tumor Promoter Activity by Estrogenic Xenobiotics." The grant is funded by the Army Breast Cancer Research Program and funding will begin in November. Ronald Hites, PhD, distinguished professor of chemistry, SPEA, Bloomington campus, will collaborate on the project which is to assess the breast cancer risk posed by environmental contaminants, such as pesticide residues, that are found in tissues of all women.

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