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## **Student lecture date changes to November 4**

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Beering Award recipient Harold E. Varmus, MD director of the National Institutes of Health, will present his lecture to students on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 11 a.m. in the Emerson Hall auditorium. The lecture was originally scheduled for Nov. 4.

Dr. Varmus will present the Beering Lecture at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, as previously announced. The lecture will be in the University Place Conference Center auditorium.

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## **Lions honored**

Indiana Lions Club members will be honored Sun., Nov. 9, at an open house at the Indiana Cancer Pavilion for their recent \$1 million pledge to help purchase a Gamma Knife.

The Lions' Cancer Control Fund has supported the IU School of Medicine's Department of Radiation Oncology for 50 years. In total, the service organization has contributed \$4.5 million.

The Indiana Lions Gamma Knife Center is one of only 30 Gamma Knife treatment centers in the U.S. The Gamma Knife is used to treat benign and malignant brain tumors, vascular malformations and functional disorders such as trigeminal neuralgia.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is sponsored by Clarian Health.

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## **Psychiatry awarded \$1 million NIH grant**

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$1million grant to the Indiana University School of Medicine for research of new drugs to treat children, adolescents and adults with autism and related developmental disorders. The five-year grant will fund a psychopharmacology research unit that will conduct clinical drug studies and investigate the effectiveness of new drugs in treating individuals with autistic disorders.

Christopher J. McDougle, MD, is the principal investigator on the grant and is the new director of the Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the IU School of Medicine. "We still have a lot to learn about the etiology of autism and about the treatments that may help people with this disorder," says Dr. McDougle, the Raymond E. Houk Professor of Psychiatry. "New research is critical so that we can improve upon treatments targeted toward the interfering behaviors associated with autism."

The characteristics of autism were first defined in 1943 by Leo Kanner, MD, a child psychiatrist at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Autism is recognized as a disorder in brain development that likely begins in utero. Data has shown the brain dysfunction to begin during the first trimester of a baby's development. Researchers have hypothesized the cause of the condition to be a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

Symptoms and severity vary among patients with autism. Aggression and ritualistic behavior are two common symptoms that can often be reduced with drugs. According to Dr. McDougle the social relatedness component, i.e., the patient's ability to interact with and react to other people, is difficult to treat with drugs. Currently, the best approach for treating autism is to provide a structured environment and system of education, with the use of drugs to treat specific interfering behaviors. New research has shown the involvement of specific chemical neuron systems, which should be helpful in designing new drug treatments.

"Autism is a profound disorder for which there currently is no cure," says Dr. McDougle. "Unfortunately 75 percent of the children born autistic are also mentally retarded and 50 percent are mute. Families of autistic children endure much stress and it is imperative that we develop better treatments to help their children. We hope our research will provide valuable new information about treatments that can help patients and families."

The IU School of Medicine is one of three recipients of the NIH grant; the two other sites are the University of California at Los Angeles and the Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. McDougle is a 1986 graduate of the IU School of Medicine. Previously, he was director of the Clinical Neuroscience Research Unit at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, and associate professor of psychiatry and of child and adolescent psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine.

## Honors

**C. William Hanke, MD**, professor of dermatology and assistant chairman of the Department of Dermatology, currently is serving as president-elect of the International Society for Dermatologic Surgery. He will serve a two-year term as president of the society beginning in the fall of 1998.

**Antoinette F. Hood, MD**, assistant dean and professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and of dermatology, will serve as vice president of the American Academy of Dermatology through 1998. She also was recently appointed to the National Board of Medical Examiners' Digital Image Library Task Force.

**Lawrence H. Einhorn, MD**, distinguished professor of medicine, received the International Citizen of the Year Award from the International Center of Indianapolis. He was recognized for his worldwide contributions to the field of cancer research and treatment.

**Andrew P. Evan, PhD**, professor of anatomy, and **Mark F. Seifert, PhD**, associate professor of anatomy, are the co-recipients of the Shellhamer Outstanding Teacher Award for 1996-1997. This award is based on peer faculty recommendations for excellence in teaching.

**Hal E. Broxmeyer, PhD**, Mary Margaret Walther Professor and chairman of Microbiology and Immunology, received the Indiana Health Industry Forum (IHIF) award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Care Delivery on October 24 at the IHIF World of Difference Award ceremony.

The Riley Child Development Center was recognized as a finalist for the Outstanding Contribution to the Health Industry award. Accepting for RCDC was Center Director **John D. Rau, MD**, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics.

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## Media training wins AAMC award

The Association of American Medical Colleges presented an Award of Excellence to IUSM November 1, during the AAMC's fall meeting in Washington, D.C., for its faculty media training program, "Getting Your Message Across." IUSM received the highest level of recognition in the public relations special projects or programs category.

The Office of Public & Media Relations began the media training program in 1996 to teach faculty members and administrators the ins and outs of working with the news media. Approximately 75 people have been trained in the four-hour class.

Additional training sessions are planned for 1998. If you are interested in attending, please call 274-7722

and speak to a public and media relations staff member.

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## Dean's Hour

The following presenters are scheduled to speak at the Dean's Hour, an informal session for third- and fourth-year medical students. Sessions are held from 4 to 5 p.m. on various Wednesdays in MS 326.

**Nov. 12** - Richard L. Schreiner, MD, chairman, Department of Pediatrics

**Nov. 19** - Carey D. Chisholm, MD, director, Emergency Medicine at Clarian Health

**Dec. 10** - Hugh C. Hendrie, Mb ChB, chairman, Department of Psychiatry

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## Town Meeting

**Dr. Stephen J. Jay, MD**, asistant dean and professor of medicine, will be a panelist at a town hall meeting on tobacco. The event is part of the American Public Health Association national meeting in Indianapolis.

Date: Monday, November 10

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Westin Hotel Grand Ballroom

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**<http://www.medicine.indiana.edu>**