



November 17, 1997

Volume 1, Number 13 • Indianapolis, Indiana

IU opens Center for Aging Research

American society is aging. The U.S. population of older adults already exceeds the entire population of Canada and annual health care expenditures for this "nation within a nation" approach \$ 200 billion. People aged 80 and older are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population.

To contribute answers to the challenges of diseases of the aging and to promote health and vitality among older adults, the university has established the Indiana University Center for Aging Research housed at the Regenstrief Institute for Health Care. Through its Strategic Directions Charter, the university has allocated \$1 million to the Center. IUPUI and the Council of Health Deans and their University Partners have allocated an additional \$500,000 in start-up funding. The center began operating in July 1997.

"The mission of the new center is to improve the quality of life for older Americans through interdisciplinary research that improves the quality of health care and health information provided to older adults," said Christopher Callahan, MD, the director of the new center and an associate professor of medicine. Callahan is a general internist and geriatrician with clinical and research interests in the health care provided to older adults in primary care settings.

Scientists from the schools of Allied Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry and Social Work will collaborate in the new center, which will also coordinate activities with IU research centers and scientists on other campuses, the university libraries and local agencies serving Indiana's older citizens .

The goal of the new center is to stimulate collaboration and communication among those already conducting research in aging and to encourage others to focus on the field.

The IU Center for Aging Research can be reached by calling 630-2464.

CME gets kudos

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education renewed its accreditation of IUSM as a sponsor of continuing medical education for physicians.

IUSM is one of only 18 other medical schools granted a six-year accreditation-- the longest term awarded. Only 9 percent of all accredited CME providers have received six-year terms.

The ACCME also awarded IUSM four commendations for exemplary performance in education needs assessment, evaluation and management of CME programs.

New facility

IUSM students will benefit from the new Medical Education building in Muncie at Ball Memorial Hospital. The groundbreaking for the new building was Nov. 10.

The completion date for the new 83,000-square-foot building is scheduled for the spring of 1999. The nearly \$12 million building will be located south of the hospital.

Ball Memorial Hospital's graduate medical education program is affiliated with the IUSM through the Muncie Center for Medical Education which was established in 1971.

"The interior of the Medical Education facility will be designed to promote positive learning and interaction among students and hospital staff while providing comfort and physical well-being for the clinic patient," said Douglas Triplett, M.D., assistant dean and director of IUSM's Muncie Center for Medical Education and vice president for medical education at Ball Memorial Hospital.

The Muncie Center for Medical Education will be on the second floor. The Family Practice Clinic will be on the ground level for easy public access. A state-of-the-art telemedicine facility, partially funded by the BMH Auxiliary, is in the planning stages. Research facilities will be on the third floor.

APHA meeting held in Indianapolis

Several IUSM faculty and staff made presentations during the 125th Meeting of the American Public Health Association held Nov. 9-13 in Indianapolis.

The meeting is the world's largest gathering of public health researchers, practitioners and policy-makers

and nearly 10,000 people attended the 1997 meeting. This year's theme was "Communicating Public Health" and more than 800 scientific and special sessions were conducted.

Presenters from IUSM included Stephen Jay, MD, assistant dean for Continuing Medical Education and professor of medicine; Charles Clark, MD, senior research scientist at Regenstrief Institute and professor of endocrinology and metabolism and of pharmacology; Daniel Clark, PhD, research scientist at Regenstrief Institute and a ssistant professor of medicine; Kurt Kronke, MD, senior research scientist at Regenstrief Institute and professor of medicine; Emmanuel Lazaridis, PhD, research scientist at Regenstrief Institute and assistant professor of medicine; William Tierney, MD, senior research scientist at Regenstrief Institute and professor of medicine; Karen Bruner Stroup, PhD, of the Community Education Department at Riley Hospital; and Morris Weinberger, PhD, director of Health S ervices Research at Roudebush VA Medicine Center, senior research scientist at Regenstrief Institute, and professor of medicine.

For additional information, see <http://medicine.indiana.edu/Aha.htm>.

Smokeout booths

The recently organized IU Nicotine Dependence Program will observe its first Great American Smokeout with informational booths at both Indiana University Hospital on Nov. 18 and at Methodist Hospital on Nov. 19.

Nov. 20 has been designated as the Great American Smokeout.

NDP coordinator Deborah M. Hudson said individuals interested in enrolling in the tobacco cessation program may do so by calling her office at 278-3981. Arden G. Christen, DDS, and Stephen J. Jay, MD, are co-directors of the program.

The Nicotine Dependence Program staff is doing more than just counseling those interested in nicotine cessation. Ms. Hudson said her office had received numerous complaints about the air quality at the Food Court in the University Place Conference Center. A petition with 550 signatures was presented to the management who decided that beginning Jan. 1 the Food Court will be smoke-free.

As a show of support for the decision, Ms. Hudson said she would hope that IUSM faculty, staff and students would make a point of visiting the Food Court for lunch the first week of the New Year.

According to Great American Smokeout statistics, each year nearly 420,000 Americans die from smoking-related illnesses. In Indiana, 3,000 people die each year from smoking-related cancers and another 3,000 die from other smoking-related respiratory diseases.

Among all states, Indiana has the sixth highest rate of deaths related to smoking. It ranks second behind Kentucky in prevalence of smokers.

Dr. Stephen Heifetz dies; served on faculty nine years

Stephen A. Heifetz, MD, director of pediatric surgical pathology and professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, died Oct. 18 of lung cancer. He was 50.

Prior to joining the IUSM faculty in 1988, Dr. Heifetz held pediatric pathology and laboratory medicine positions at Izaak Walton Killam Hospital for Children and Grace Maternity Hospital, both in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

While serving with the Army from 1978 to 1985, he was chairman of the Department of Pediatric Pathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, registrar of pediatric pathology at the American Registry of Pathology, assistant chief of the departments of pathology at the U.S. Army Hospital in Nuremberg, Germany, and at 2nd General Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. He also served as a consultant in pediatric pathology to the U.S. surgeon general.

When Dr. Heifetz left the military he had achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Dr. Heifetz was a 1967 graduate of Swarthmore College and received his medical degree in 1971 from State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center.

He was internationally known for his expertise in placental pathology and pediatric germ cell tumors. He served on several national and local professional panels dedicated to the study of childhood cancer, fetal and infant mortality, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. His publications and presentations, for which he received many awards, were numerous.

In 1996, Dr. Heifetz was the recipient of the Gold Medal Caffey Award, presented by the Society for Pediatric Radiology. He also was honored in July by the Marion County Health Department for his contributions to the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Program.

Dr. Heifetz is survived by his companion, Dr. J. Isaac Bateman; two children, Jennifer Ruth Wullkotte and Joshua Barnett Heifetz; his mother, Gertrude Levine Heifetz, and his sister, Joan Heifetz Hollinger.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Riley Memorial Association's Dr. Stephen A. Heifetz Children's Cancer Research Fund.

Faculty members honored in Uruguay

Eight members of the IUSM Department of Neurology were selected to present papers at the XVI World Congress of Neurology in Buenos Aires. The Congress is held every four years and is sponsored by the World Federation of Neurology.

Speaking at the Congress were Jose Biller, MD, chairman of the IUSM Department of Neurology; Mark Dyken, MD, professor emeritus and former chairman of the Department of Neurology; Martin Farlow, MD, professor of neurology; Eric Siemers, MD, associate professor of neurology; Bhuwan Garg, MD, associate professor of neurology; Edward Dropcho, MD, professor of neurology.

Following the conference, Drs. Biller, Dyken, Garg and Siemers were inducted as honorary members of the Society of Neurology of Uruguay.

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