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## **IU joins with AAMC in PATH initiative**

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Indiana University physicians have joined the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association in a lawsuit filed Oct. 29 against the federal government to end unfair and retroactive audits of U.S. teaching physicians.

In announcing the filing of the suit, the AAMC named eight associations and 13 institutions, including IU, who had joined in the action which is more commonly known as the PATH (Physicians at Teaching Hospitals) initiative.

The complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, seeks relief from the coercive federal investigations of teaching physicians by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General and the Department of Justice.

The parties are seeking declaratory and injunctive relief from the PATH initiative and other techniques used by the federal government "to coerce the non-association plaintiffs into highly disadvantageous and unfair 'volunteer settlements' based on unlawful and retroactively applied standards relating to payment for services of teaching physicians under the Medicare program," according to the complaint.

IU physicians have not been the subject of a PATH audit. However, the 2-year-old investigation has resulted in settlements totaling \$50.6 million made by the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and the University of Virginia

Other institutions joining in the complaint include Johns Hopkins University, the University of Michigan, State University of New York and the Loma Linda University Health Care.

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# Dean Robert Holden has appointed three faculty to administrative positions at IUSM.

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**Meredith T. Hull, MD**, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, has been appointed assistant dean. He will focus on student and employee health programs promotion and tenure, and the coordinating and defining of faculty issues. He also will be working with Stuart A. Kleit, MD, associate dean of clinical affairs, on house staff activities.

**Robert B. Jones, MD, PhD**, professor of medicine, has been appointed associate dean in the School of Medicine. His responsibilities include oversight of the compliance program for physicians at IUSM.

**Lynda Means, MD**, associate professor of anesthesiology and surgery, has been appointed assistant dean. Her responsibilities include faculty and student initiatives regarding professional and career development and the advancement of women and minority faculty. She will also address marketing issues regarding the School.

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## Scope on break

Scope will take an intermission and will not publish on Dec. 29 and Jan. 12 in recognition of winter break and the brief suspension of special academic activities and events at IUSM.

Please send in your news now for consideration in the Dec. 15 issues.

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## Licensing story told

"The Story of Medical Licensing in Indiana in the 19th Century" will be the topic at the Dec. 4 presentation of the John Shaw Billings History of Medicine Society. Nancy L. Eckerman, MLS, special collections librarian at the Ruth Lilly Medical Library, will be the speaker at the 4 p.m. presentation in room 301 of the library.

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## Peachey idea

Copies of "Just Peachey: Cooking Up A Cure" are still available from the IU Cancer Center office in room 455 of the Indiana Cancer Pavilion.

The cookbook was published in 1995 and proceeds from its sale go to breast cancer research at IU. The cookbook is a collection of recipes compiled by The Catherine Peachey Fund, Inc. The fund was established in memory of Catherine Peachey, who died in 1994 from breast cancer.

The cookbook, which makes a dandy holiday gift, can be purchased for \$15.

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## Another first at IUSM: thalamic implant procedure done

Physicians at IUSM performed Indiana's first deep brain stimulation procedure Nov. 19. The procedure received FDA approval in June.

**Robert Worth, MD, PhD**, associate professor of neurosurgery, **Thomas Witt, MD**, assistant professor of neurosurgery, and **Eric Siemers, MD**, associate professor of neurology, performed the thalamic implant procedure on a 78-year-old Fort Wayne man who suffers from essential tremor. The patient was released from Indiana University Hospital on the second day after the surgery.

The deep brain stimulation therapy also is FDA approved for treatment of tremor in Parkinson disease. Dr. Worth said that deep brain stimulation also may be helpful in treating the rigidity and slowed motor functioning of Parkinson disease, but its use for that condition requires a slightly different placement in the brain. The IU School of Medicine may begin using this procedure for treating Parkinson disease patients as early as January.

(For additional information, see <http://medicine.indiana.edu/tremor.htm>)

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## Addendum

**The following information was omitted from a story entitled "Faculty members honored in Uruguay" in the Nov. 17 issue of Scope.**

Jose Biller, MD, professor and chairman of the Department of Neurology, and Mark L. Dyken, MD, professor emeritus and former chairman of the Department of Neurology, were awarded the title of "professor ad-honorem" by the dean of the School of Medicine of the University of the Republic in Montevideo, Uruguay. Drs. Biller and Dyken were in Uruguay as part of an International Partnership Program, following a meeting of the XVI World Congress of Neurology in Buenos Aires.

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## Honors

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**Tina Pottorff, RN**, was named the 1997 recipient of the Margaret Martin Nursing Award during the Riley Memorial Association annual meeting Nov. 19. Ms. Pottorff is a diabetes educator and nurse practitioner in the Section of Pediatric Endocrinology/Diabetology.

**Fernando Escobar, MD**, a fellow in the Department of Pediatrics, Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, was elected president of the Society of Craniofacial Genetics for 1997-98 during the group's annual meeting in October.

**William Miller, MD**, clinical assistant professor of radiology at IUSM and medical director at Sagamore Radiology Services in Lafayette, has been elected president of the IUSM Alumni Association. Dr. Miller will serve a two-year term as head of the association which represents the school's more than 12,000 graduates.

Two IUSM faculty were recognized by the Indiana Public Health Foundation in October. **Eugene Helveston, MD**, professor of ophthalmology, and **Amy Shapiro, MD**, associate professor of pediatrics and medical director of the Indiana Hemophilia Comprehensive Center at Riley Hospital, are recipients of 1997 Tony and Mary Hulman Health Achievement Awards.

**James Klaunig, PhD**, professor and director of the Section of Toxicology, has been named a visiting professor of Beijing Medical University. Dr. Klaunig received the honor during an October visit to IUSM by Lee Liming, MD, professor and dean at the School of Public Health, Beijing Medical University, and vice president of the Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health.

**Susan Kreissman, MD**, assistant professor of pediatrics, has been named the first Jonathon and Jennifer Simmons Scholar in Pediatrics. The endowment was established by the Riley Memorial Association and the Simmons family to support translational cancer research.

**Michael Dalsing, MD**, professor of surgery, has been elected chairman of the Venous Forum. He also serves on the program committee for the forum. In addition, Dr. Dalsing has been elected membership

chairman for the Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society.

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## **IUSM pediatrician guest on NBC**

**Patricia Keener, MD**, professor of pediatrics, director of the IU Section of General and Community Pediatrics, and chief of pediatrics for Wishard Health Services, was a guest on **NBC's Today Show Nov. 26**.

Dr. Keener discussed the problems of finding an appropriate teenaged babysitter. Her appearance was on the second day of a two-day series focused on the shortage of teenage sitters.

Dr. Keener is founder and medical director of Safe Sitter, Inc., a national, nonprofit program for training teenage sitters.

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