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Plans in works at IU to squash millennium bug

If "Y2K" isn't part of your lingo yet, it will be soon. Y2K is the abbreviation for Year 2000 and primarily references the technical problems that will arise when the calendar rolls over to Jan. 1, 2000, and the millennium glitch begins.

For IUSM the headaches could be enormous, but there is help at hand. Sherrie Hammond, acting associate director of IUSM Information Technologies and Y2K coordinator, said the school is making great efforts to anticipate and thwart problems that could arise from the so-called millennium bug.

"The Y2K isn't just a computer issue," Hammond said. "It is a business issue because you have to look not just at the potential problems in your specific area but also at how the problems of suppliers, vendors and other associates could affect your operation. The Y2K problem could affect things you wouldn't even associate with a computer, such as elevators, electricity, security systems, infusion pumps and defibrillators."

The first step for Hammond was to have departments and service units designate a Y2K coordinator for their area. The second step was to complete a physical inventory of all their equipment, including items used in research and patient care. That inventory includes donated, leased and practice plan purchased equipment. The inventory was to be submitted to the dean's office by Oct. 31.

The next step will be for the Office of Information Technology in the Dean's office to contact the various vendors, determine which pieces of equipment need a millennium adjustment and then coordinate the repairs between the vendors and the various departments. The Office of Information Technology will assist departments with the hiring of specialists to correct problems before they arise and coordinate efforts with vendors to do what is needed to upgrade equipment.

A more detailed description of the Y2K project at IUSM can be found at <http://www.medicine.iu.edu/y2k>.

Hammond said her department is coordinating efforts with its counterpart at Clarian Health and other members of the IUPUI campus community, but she cautioned that IUSM departments should not assume that Clarian will take care of all the IUSM clinical Y2K problems.

In addition to equipment needs at the IUSM Indianapolis campus, Hammond has met with administrators at the eight Medical Education Centers to coordinate efforts in resolving their Y2K problems.

If you want to know how really nasty the millennium computer bug can be, check out http://thesitefights.com/wepatrol/mil_bug.gif.

BRIEFS

Henney confirmed

Jane Henney, MD, a 1973 graduate of IUSM was confirmed Oct. 21 as the first woman commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Prior to her confirmation, Dr. Henney was the vice president of the Health Sciences Center at the University of New Mexico. From 1992 to 1994, she served as deputy commissioner of the FDA.

In May 1998, Dr. Henney was recognized as a distinguished alumna during IUSM Spring Medical Weekend.

Dr. Henney is a native of Woodburn, Ind., and attended Manchester College.

New associate dean

Robert Jones, MD, has been named IUSM associate dean of clinical affairs.

Dr. Jones joined the faculty in 1978. A professor of medicine and of microbiology and immunology, he has served as director of the Midwest STD Collaborative Research Center for the study of sexually transmitted diseases since 1991.

He will remain director of the research center until July 1999.

Judah Folkman to be 1998 Beering lecturer/recipient

Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the 1998 Beering Lecture by Judah Folkman, MD, who is considered the father of modern angiogenesis research. The lecture will be at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in the University Place Conference Center auditorium.

Dr. Folkman, whose presentation is entitled, "New Directions in Angiogenesis Research," is the recipient of the 1998 Steven C. Beering Award for Advancement of Biomedical or Clinical Science presented by the IU School of Medicine.

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. Folkman also will address the first- and second-year medical students at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, in the Emerson Hall auditorium. The title of his presentation will be "Anti-angiogenic Therapy: Clinical and Experimental Studies."

Also on Tuesday, Dr. Folkman will be the presenter at Mini Medical School. The program is from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the University Place Conference Center auditorium and his topic will be "The Discovery of New Anti-cancer Drugs Which Turn Off Blood Vessel Growth." Faculty are welcome to attend this lecture.

Dr. Folkman is the Julia Dyckman Andrus Professor of Pediatric Surgery and professor of cell biology at Harvard Medical School.

He received his medical degree magna cum laude from Harvard Medical School and completed his internship and residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He served as surgeon-in-chief and chairman of surgery at Children's Hospital in Boston for 14 years, but stepped down from the position in 1981 to devote his full effort to angiogenesis research. He now serves as a senior associate in surgery and director of surgical research.

Dr. Folkman was the first to observe the activity of angiogenesis - the development of blood vessels to support tumor growth. He also proposed the concept of naturally occurring angiogenic inhibitors. His research team later identified the first of these - angiostatic steroids - as well as two other kinds of inhibitors. Two of his discoveries are now in human trials, one to test angiogenesis inhibition in children

with life-threatening hemangioma and one to test an angiogenic therapy for otherwise untreatable peptic ulcers.

Honors

Deborah Allen, MD, has been appointed chairman of the American Academy of Family Physicians' Commission on Education. The appointment is for a one-year term.

Beverly Hill, EdD, has been elected vice president of the Association of Indiana Directors of Medical Education at the group's September meeting. Dr. Hill's term in office will be from 1998 until 2003.

Perry Westerman, MD, received the 1998 Norman Skole Service Award at the 49th annual meeting of the Mental Health Association in Marion County. This award is presented annually to a person or organization who has demonstrated unique and exceptional service to improve the quality of life for individuals with mental illness.

Recipients of the second annual George and Lula Rawls Award of Excellence are **Davina Harkey, Monet Williams, and Marcus Thorne**. All were recognized for outstanding academic achievement.

Ellen Gullett received an Award of Distinction from the Association of American Medical Colleges for public relations efforts to launch the Rural Health Initiative. The collaborative program between IUSM and Indiana State University is for students who are interested in a career in rural medicine. ISU Public Affairs staff members also were recognized for their participation on the project.

Free 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 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays. No appointments are necessary.

Questions may be addressed to 274-5887.

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