



November 16, 1998

Volume 2, Number 19 • Indianapolis, Indiana

Grant will continue IU research into genetics of manic depression

IUSM researchers have received a \$1.2 million, four-year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to continue their research into the genetics of manic depressive illness.

The grant is part of \$12 million awarded to nine institutions to support the on-going search for the genes that cause bipolar affective disorder, more commonly known as manic depression.

John Nurnberger Jr., MD, PhD, is the principal investigator for the IUSM grant. He will lead the IU research, looking for markers on seven different chromosomes (1, 6, 7, 10, 16, 21 and 22) with areas that appear related to bipolar disorder.

This grant will allow the IUSM researchers to proceed with similar research begun earlier under grants supporting work from 1989 to 1997. This project is now expanded from four data collection sites to eight data collection sites. Dr. Nurnberger was national coordinator for the four-site study and IUSM will retain a coordinating role for the new project.

"Isolating the genes that cause manic depression will allow researchers to develop better therapies for the disorder," said Dr. Nurnberger. "Earlier research efforts have made great strides in identifying chromosomes involved in the disorder, so I am optimistic that some of the genes involved may be identified during the next few years."

IU has been collaborating with other institutions seeking the genetic basis of the disorder, which affects about 1 percent of the U.S. population. Manic depression is characterized by severe swings in high and low mood states that generally last weeks or months. Approximately 75 percent of all people affected with manic depression have at least one close relative with manic depression or severe depression.

The participants in this study are found primarily through the affiliations IU has with various local hospitals and clinics, as well as its own university facilities.

Other IUSM researchers working on this grant include William Lawson, MD; Elizabeth Bowman, MD; Leela Rau, MD; Marvin Miller, MD; Aimee Mayeda, MD; P. Michael Conneally, PhD; Howard Edenberg, PhD; Tatiana Foroud, PhD; Carrie Smiley, RN; Polly Larson, RN; Vanessa Patrick, RN, and Joseph Smedley, PhD. There are also collaborating investigators at Wayne State University and the University of Louisville.

Other institutions who received funding from this grant are the University of Utah, the University of California - San Diego, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Iowa, the University of Chicago, Washington University, Johns Hopkins University and Rush-Presbyterian Hospital.

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(Note: The IU team of researchers is seeking siblings who have a family history of bipolar disorder to participate in the study. Individuals with questions or those wanting to enroll in the study may call 317-274-0173.)

BRIEFS

New lecture series

The National Center of Excellence in Women's Health at IUSM is initiating a monthly educational program which is open to IUSM faculty, staff and students. The program will be from noon to 1 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month in UH 2005.

The speaker for the Nov. 25 program will be **Elisabeth von der Lohe, MD**. Her topic will be "Cardiovascular Health and Disease in Women."

The program will resume in January following the holiday break.

Named professorship

The Trustees of Indiana University have approved the appointment of **Leonard C. Erickson, PhD**, as the Robert Wallace Miller Professor.

The professorship was initiated to support a faculty member involved in cancer research. Dr. Erickson joined the IUSM in July 1997 as a professor of pharmacology and toxicology and associate director for basic research at IU Cancer Center. His responsibilities include coordination of the basic science research programs and related core facilities.

The professorship was established in 1995 as a tribute to the son of Richard and Jane Miller of Plymouth. The child died of cancer in 1976 at the age of 11. The Millers are charter members of the IU Cancer Center Development Board.

Joint effort produces recognition for IUSM

Elaine Crabtree, print manager and supervising editor for the Creative Services Facility of the Medical Educational Resources Program, was one of eight people invited to present a paper at the national conference of the American Medical Writers Association in October.

Her presentation, titled *Improving Patient Care Through Cross-Cultural Communication*, is based on a MERP project produced for Patricia Keener, MD. Dr. Keener's case studies were created to help educate first-year medical students about diversity issues. MERP edited and designed four booklets and also produced a videotape explaining the research process.

Crabtree's invitation to speak at AMWA coincides with the mid-November launching of MERP's new Journal Editing Service, which she will head. This new service is intended to help physicians and faculty members get articles published in professional journals. The service will include grammar checking and proofreading as well as review for adherence to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, which are followed by over 500 biomedical journals.

Two educational projects receive Telly Awards

Two educational videos, produced by the Creative Services Facility of the Medical Education Resources Program/Continuing Medical Education have been awarded 1998 Bronze Telly Awards.

One of the award-winning videos was commissioned by the IU Department of Dermatology and the second was a joint project between the University Nutrition Associates Inc. and the Indiana State

Department of Health.

The dermatology video, entitled *Examination of the Skin: Indiana University Skin Exam Series*, is a series of four distinct programs that are used as teaching aids for physicians and students at IUSM. The video, created by **Ginat Mirowski, DMD, MD, and Antoinette Hood, MD**, also is being used as a teaching aid at the IU School of Dentistry.

The current project was an expansion of one originally completed by **Holly Faust, MD**.

The other award was for a one-hour continuing medical education video entitled *Managing Type 2 Diabetes in a Primary Care Office*. The project also was aired at 12 state sites for a nationally televised Centers for Disease Control teleconference. **Sara Blackburn, DCS, RD**, was the coordinator of the project.

Telly Awards are given in an international competition that showcases and recognizes outstanding non-broadcast and video production. Only about 17 percent of the 10,000 entries receive awards, which are noncompetitive and granted to producers of significant videos achieving a high standard of excellence.

Scope submissions

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