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Drug analysis lab wins Olympic bid for 2002

The IUSM Athletic Drug Testing and Toxicology Laboratory, under the direction of Larry Bowers, PhD, has been selected by the International Olympic Committee to provide athletic drug testing for the 2002 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

An eight-member selection panel, chaired by Charles Rich, MD, the chief medical officer for the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC), recommended Indiana University and Dr. Bowers to develop the temporary local laboratory for the Games.

The announcement that Dr. Bowers will serve as director of the Salt Lake laboratory was released Tuesday, Jan. 12, by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games for 2002.

"We look forward to the collaborative effort with Dr. Bowers and Indiana University to provide high-quality laboratory services that meet the requirements of the IOC for doping control," Dr. Rich said. "Our next major steps will be to identify a location for the temporary laboratory, the acquisition of specific equipment, and the development of an operational plan for testing."

The IU lab was founded in 1983 and has performed testing at multi-sport events such as the 1987 Pan American Games, 1996 Paralympic Games and 1998 Goodwill Games.

Dr. Bowers joined the IU School of Medicine faculty as director of the Athletic Drug Testing and Toxicology Laboratory in 1992. The facility, which analyzes about 18,000 samples per year in a forensic laboratory setting, has played an important role in the development of drug testing programs for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the National Football League (NFL). Testing for performance enhancing substances for the NCAA, NFL, U.S. Olympic Committee and other athletic organizations comprise about 80 percent of the analyzed samples.

"The Indiana University laboratory has an unparalleled commitment to quality assurance and quality

management," Dr. Bowers said. "We take great pride in our ability to report results within the scheduled time frame. We also have extensive experience in testing for the legal system, providing expert testimony, and ensuring the confidentiality required for testing at the Olympic level."

Only two IOC-accredited laboratories exist in the United States from which SLOC could choose its doping control services for the 2002 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. In addition to Indiana University, the other facility is in Los Angeles on the campus of UCLA.

Dr. Bowers worked as deputy director of the drug testing lab at the 1996 Olympic Games, along with Barry Sample, PhD, lab director and a former IU School of Medicine faculty member. Dr. Bowers has been consulting with laboratory representatives for the 1999 Pan American Games to be held this summer in Winnipeg, Canada. In addition to directing the IU lab, Bowers has been a professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine since 1992 at Indiana University School of Medicine.

The IOC Medical Code prohibits the use of any substance that boosts an athlete's performance in competition in an artificial and unfair manner. The IOC has a testing program for the Olympic Games and related international competitions to deter the use of performance enhancing substances.

BRIEFS

COE funding

The IUSM National Center of Excellence in Women's Health has received \$35,000 from the Indianapolis Foundation for the formation of a community outreach coordinator staff position.

The Center of Excellence was funded in 1997 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Nominations sought

Nominations are being accepted for child safety advocates and "Child Safety Stars" to be recognized in conjunction with the 1999 National SAFE KIDS Week, May 1-8. The IUSM Automotive Safety Program and the Indiana SAFE KIDS Coalition are seeking nominations of Indiana residents.

The Indiana SAFE KIDS Coalition is seeking a representative to attend the National SAFE KIDS event in Washington, D.C., that will kick-off National SAFE KIDS Week.

The IUSM Auto Safety Program will host the Indiana Child Safety Advocates Awards in April. Individuals and organizations will be recognized for their commitment to children's safety.

For additional information on either nomination process, contact the Automotive Safety Program at 274-2977.

Acting director named for Health Service Research

Phillip Breitfeld, MD, director of the Section of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, has been named acting director of the pediatric Health Service Research program, an initiative designed to enhance IUSM's role in the area of health outcomes, health delivery systems and health policy research.

IU is recognized nationally and internationally for its health service research, especially that performed by investigators at the Regenstrief Institute for Health Care. The HSR program will further promote IUSM's role in this area.

Dr. Breitfeld will serve as acting director until a permanent director is named, possibly by July 2000.

In the meantime, Frank Smith, MD, director of the Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant Program, will also serve as the interim director of the Section of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, allowing Dr. Breitfeld more time to concentrate on the new initiative.

General interest seminars planned

Patricia Wittberg, PhD, will be the speaker at the Thursday, Jan. 21, Medical Ethics and Humanities Seminar. Dr. Wittberg will discuss "Religious Orders and Health Care." Her presentation will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Medical Library, room 301-302.

"Crest at IUPUI: The Oral Health Research Institute" is the topic of the 4 p.m., Monday, Jan. 25, presentation sponsored by the John Shaw Billings History of Medicine Society. Sara Anne Houk, MLS, JD, and Kay Rossok, library director and archives coordinator at IUSD respectively, will discuss the integral role of the Institute in the Medical Library, room 301.

The January speaker for the IU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health monthly seminar will be Marguerite Shepard, MD. Her topic will be "A Holistic Approach To Menopause and Its Management." The one-hour seminar will begin at noon, Wednesday, Jan. 27, in Nursing School, room 206.

Honors

Anne Farrell, MD, is the recipient of the Young Investigator Award in Clinical Science from the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Cardiology. She received the honor at the recent annual AAP meeting in San Francisco. Dr. Farrell is the second IU pediatric cardiology fellow to win this award in the past three years.

Richard Haak, PhD, a graduate of MacMurray College, received the school's 1998 Distinguished Alumni Award during the October homecoming festivities.

William Lawson, MD, PhD, has been awarded the E.Y. Williams, MD, Clinical Scholars of Distinction Award, conferred by the Section on Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the National Medical Association. The award is the highest honor offered by the Section on Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Katherine Look, MD, has been appointed to the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination Step 2 Test Material Development Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology.

John Pless, MD, has been appointed to the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination Step 1 Test Material Development Committee for Pathology.

Michael Tsangaris, MD, was honored in December as one of the Leaders of Excellence by the Indiana Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Field leads program

Loren Field, PhD, has been named the leader of a new joint program linking the Herman B Wells Center with the Krannert Institute of Cardiology.

Dr. Field will oversee the development of a program in cardiovascular development biology.

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