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Marerro to lead IUSM efforts in CDC study

IUSM is one of six research centers selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a five-year study in managed care environments designed to evaluate and improve the health care and health status of people with diabetes. Total first-year funding for the project is \$2.4 million.

The CDC announced the kick-off of the new multi-center study Monday, Jan. 25. The study is the largest of its kind undertaken by the CDC. The new initiative has been dubbed "translational research."

David Marrero, PhD, is the principal investigator for the IUSM portion of the nationwide study. IU will receive more than \$300,000 the first year, which will be spent organizing the study and establishing common protocols for all six centers to follow.

"The ultimate goal of the study is to design, implement and evaluate interventions to improve diabetes health care delivery in a managed care environment," Dr. Marrero said.

Translational research has three components: to assess the level and quality of care implemented in practice, to explore the factors that affect variations in implementation and identify barriers to change, and to identify and test change strategies aimed at achieving optimal care.

"Translational research is the study of how to get the latest medical advances and care quickly to the people who need it most," says Frank Vinicor, MD, director of CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation and a former IUSM faculty member.

IUSM is nationally recognized for its diabetes care research. It has one of the original Diabetes Research and Training Center designations and is one of only four medical centers in the nation with both a Diabetes Prevention Program grant and a Diabetes Research and Training Center.

Dr. Venkat Narayan, the CDC's principal investigator for the study, explained, "This study will help us

understand and improve the quality of care and quality of life for people with diabetes."

More than 16 million people have diabetes, which is a leading cause of new cases of blindness, kidney failure and amputations. The direct and indirect costs of diabetes are \$98 billion annually.

Ultimately, the CDC hopes the study will lead to better use of the existing treatments available to individuals with diabetes. Education of persons with diabetes can significantly improve control of their disease. The potential benefits to the Medicare and Medicaid programs, as well as improvements in the quality of life of our aging population, could be profound. Despite the value of these treatments, they are not currently used as much as they should be, said Dr. Narayan.

The other research centers involved are located in California, Hawaii, Michigan, New Jersey and Texas. The six centers, along with a Coordinating Center and the CDC, will work together to assess the existing quality of care and quality of life among people with diabetes, and to identify the major modifiable barriers to improvement in care across different ethnic groups.

The CDC selected the six research centers after a competitive review process. "These centers provide a geographic and ethnic representation of the United States, including African-Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic-Latinos and Asian-Pacific Islanders and Caucasians," said Dr. Vinicor. "We know diabetes has different impacts on different ethnic groups, though we don't know why. But we hope to learn how efficacious treatments can be effectively delivered and the burden of diabetes can be reduced for all Americans, regardless of their health insurance or health care provider."

BRIEFS

Books online

The Ruth Lilly Medical Library has added Harrison's Online, an online textbook, and created a consolidated page linking to it and the library's 30-plus other online textbooks at <http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/ref/texts.html>.

These resources are also listed in the library's table of online resources at: <http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/ref/dbtable.html>

These textbooks are accessible to all IUSM locations, including dial access via campus modem pools. Note that because of license restrictions, these sites are not accessible to commercial Internet service

providers.

Grant awarded

The IU Center for Aging Research has been awarded two research grants.

A \$1.2 million grant has been awarded by the Hartford Foundation for a study entitled "Collaborative of Case Management for Late Life Depression." The four-year, multi-state study involves testing a health care team approach to managing depression in older adults.

IUSM is one of only five medical schools in the nation selected for the grant. The others are Duke, UCLA, University of Washington and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Christopher Callahan, MD, director of the center, received a \$500,000 award from the National Institute on Aging. The award recognizes Dr. Callahan for his promotion of aging research and IUSM's commitment to aging research.

Seminar series on cancer therapies begins in February

Seminars focusing on novel cancer therapies will be presented on Wednesdays during the month of February from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Indiana Cancer Research Institute auditorium.

The Combined Seminar Series is hosted by the IU Cancer Center, IUSM departments of medicine and pediatrics, section of hematology/oncology, The Walther Oncology Center and the Herman B Wells Center for Pediatric Research.

The dates, topics and presenters are:

Feb. 3 - Donna Shewach, Ph.D., University of Michigan Department of Pharmacology, "Mechanism of Cell Killing by Ganciclovir in HSV-TK-Expressing and Non-expressing Bystander Cells." Hosted by Len Erickson, Ph.D.

Feb. 10 - David A. Williams, M.D., Kipp Professor of Pediatrics, professor of medical and molecular genetics at IUSM and associate investigator for Howard Hughes Medical Institute, "Phenotypic Analysis

of Mice Deficient in the Rho GTPase, Rac2." Hosted by the Wells Center.

Feb. 17 - Michael Moran, Ph.D., associate professor at the University of Toronto, "Positive and Negative Regulation in the Ras Pathway." Hosted by Gen-Sheng Feng, PhD, Walther Oncology Center.

Feb. 24 - To be announced. For additional information, contact Liz Parsons at 278-0070 or via e-mail at eparsons@iupui.edu.

End of life care, spirituality to be explored at conference

Exploring spirituality and ethics as they relate to the delivery of health care, with an emphasis on end-of-life care, will be the focus of the Indiana Healthcare Ethics Network's fourth annual conference on Friday, March 12.

Registration for "Living with Dying: Spirituality and Ethics at the End of Life" will begin at 7:45 a.m. and the program will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Ritz Charles.

Keynote speakers will be David H. Smith, PhD, director of the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions and professor of religious studies at IU-Bloomington, and Bethany Spielman, JD, PhD, director of the Medical Ethics Program and assistant professor in medical jurisprudence and medical humanities at Southern Illinois University.

For additional information, call IHEN at 630-6721.

Mini Medical School line-up announced

Mini Medical School will begin the spring 1999 session on Feb. 16.

The six-week lecture series is open to the general public. It also is offered free of charge to all IU medical students. Faculty and staff also are encouraged to attend.

Classes are held on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the University Place Conference Center auditorium. To register, call 317-274-3426.

The class dates and topics are as follows:

February 16

Lynn Willis, PhD, "Alternative Medicine: Walking a Fine Line"

February 23

Stephen Williams, MD, and Richard Foster, MD, "A Cure for Testis Cancer: The 25-Year Success Story"

March 2

Charles Flippen II, MD, "Migraine Headaches: Fact and Fiction"

March 9

William Kronenberger, PhD, "Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: Evaluation and Treatment"

March 16

John Brown, MD, Yousuf Mahomed, MD, Mark Turrentine, MD, Ken Kesler, MD, "Advances in Cardiothoracic Surgery"

March 23

Michael Busk, MD, MPH, "Healthy, Wellthy and Wise"

Juvenile fire setters topic of seminar

"Mental Health Treatment for Juvenile Fire Setters" will be the topic of a jointly sponsored conference from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 3 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 4.

The Feb. 3 seminar is geared to teachers, school nurses, guidance counselors and school social workers. The program on Feb. 4 will provide information to fire service personnel, fire investigators, social workers, mental health professionals, counselors, nurses and physicians.

To register for the conference, contact the IUSM Community Education Department at 274-2964.

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