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IU Cancer Center gets NCI center designation

In September, IUSM cancer programs received prestigious recognition in the form of two national awards.

The IU Cancer Center has been recognized as a premier national center for the study of cancer and the development of new cancer treatments by the National Cancer Institute. The NCI clinical cancer center designation comes with a five-year, \$6.3 million support grant.

IUSM's clout in the field of cancer research has been intensified by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease, which has established one of the nation's first Core Centers of Excellence in Molecular Hematology at IUSM. A grant of \$4.7 million will support the center. (Additional information on this honor will be published in the Oct. 18 issue of *Scope*.)

The NCI designation recognizes the IU Cancer Center as part of an elite group of research centers focusing on the rapid translation of research discoveries to directly benefit people with cancer. IUCC is the only NCI-designated clinical cancer center in Indiana.

The NCI grant will enhance the collaborative efforts of research scientists and physicians throughout Indiana. Members and collaborators of IUCC are on the faculties of the IU schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry and allied health sciences, as well as the science schools at IU and Purdue University.

IUCC faculty are nationally acclaimed for developing gene therapies for bone marrow diseases such as leukemia, the 95 percent cure rate for testicular cancer in young men, and the use of umbilical cord stem cells for bone marrow transplantation. One of the three NCI-designated viral vector manufacturing laboratories in the nation was developed and is operated at IUSM.

"An NCI research designation complements our long-standing recognition as one of the top clinical programs nationally," said Stephen Williams, MD, director of IUCC.

The \$6.3 million support grant from the NCI will provide seed money for new research, support center leadership, research-related administrative functions and shared research resources, such as the discussions of collaboration that are in progress with Purdue University, which holds an NCI cancer research center designation.

"This designation comes at a most opportune time," said Dean Robert Holden, MD. "Along with the recent appropriation from the Indiana legislature to support developments in biomedical research, I see the NCI designation as a recognition of the research prowess at IU and a vote of confidence in its future."

IUCC's new designation became possible through the support of organizations such as the Walther Cancer Institute, Riley Memorial Association through the Herman B Wells Center for Pediatric Research, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Indiana Lions Cancer Control Fund, the Indiana Order of the Elks and Clarian Health Partners.

BRIEFS

Flu shots

'Tis the season -- not for merriment, but for flu shots.

The IU Occupational Health Services on the first floor of Coleman Hall is now offering free flu shots to employees and students. Mid-October to mid-November is the prime time for the preventive shots, but individuals wanting inoculations early can walk in to the clinic.

The clinic is open for flu shots from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Thursdays, the hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's inoculation is to protect against Beijing, Sydney and Wamanafhi flu strains.

Weinberger honored

Myron Weinberger, MD, recently received the Page-Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award in Hypertension from the American Heart Association's Council for High Blood Pressure Research.

Dr. Weinberger was presented with the award at the council's 53rd annual fall conference and scientific

sessions in Orlando, Fla.

He currently serves as the vice president of the American Society of Hypertension and chairman of its publications and communications committee.

New director of medical library begins duties

Julie Johnson McGowan, PhD, is the new director of the Ruth Lilly Medical Library at IUSM.

The new library chief replaces Dana McDonald, who retired as director of the IUPUI-based library last year. Francis Brahmi has served as interim director since McDonald's retirement.

An Illinois native, Dr. McGowan was associate dean for Health Sciences Informatics and Library Resources at the Charles A. Dana Medical Library, University of Vermont at Burlington. There, she provided leadership for health informatics and telemedicine research, as well as serving as director of the health sciences library.

McGowan was a professor in UVM College of Medicine's pediatrics department, teaching applied medical informatics.

She also was co-director of the Vermont Initiative for Rural Health Informatics and Telemedicine, overseeing education and research programs, including grants, contracts and special funding.

Informatics is the science of the electronic collection, storage and retrieval of information.

McGowan holds a doctorate in medical education from the University of South Carolina, a master's in medical iconography (University of South Carolina) and master's of library and information science (University of Maryland). She earned her bachelor's degrees in art and philosophy from Randolph Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va.

The Ruth Lilly Medical Library serves IUSM faculty, students, staff and practicing health-care professionals throughout the state. The Ruth Lilly Medical Library contains more than 170,00 volumes and subscribes to more than 1,800 journals. It also has a wide variety of medical, health sciences, biological, chemical and psychological electronic databases.

Fall Mini Medical School to begin

Mini Medical School will launch its fall series of lectures on Oct. 12.

Classes are held on Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the University Place Conference Center auditorium.

The six-week series is open to the public. The registration fee is \$45. IUSM students may attend for free. To register, call 274-3426.

Class dates, speakers and topics include:

Oct. 12 -- Kimberly A. Quaid, PhD, Ethics of Genetic Testing

Oct. 19 -- Mark W. Turrentine, MD, Advances in Pediatric Cardiac Surgery

Oct. 26 -- Richard B. Kohler, MD, Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria

Nov. 2 -- Joseph F. Fitzgerald, MD, Problems in Pediatric Gastroenterology

Nov. 9 -- Alexander D. Mih, MD, PhD, Common Conditions Affecting the Hand

Nov. 16 -- Jeffrey M. Friedman, MD, PhD, Physiologic Mechanisms Regulating Body Weight.

Dr. Friedman also will be the 1999 Steven C. Beering lecturer on Nov. 17. His discovery of the "fat gene" has generated a new view of obesity and research to understand the genetic basis for body weight. Dr. Friedman is the Marilyn M. Simpson Professor at The Rockefeller University in New York City.

Honors

David Posey, MD, was chosen as the first Daniel X. Freedman Fellow (1999-2000) at the Institute of Psychiatric Research of the Department of Psychiatry. He recently completed a fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry and is an associate professor in psychiatry. Dr. Posey worked close with Christopher McDougle, MD, in the area of neuropsychopharmacology of autism and related pervasive developmental disorders.

Virginia Caine, MD, and **Ora Pescovitz, MD**, have been honored in this year's selection of "Influential Women in Indianapolis" by the Indianapolis Business Journal and The Indiana Lawyer.

Suzanne Ragg, MD, PhD, is the first winner of a National Childhood Cancer Foundation fellowship

established by the family of William Kennedy. Dr. Ragg, who will do her work at Riley Hospital, will be introducing chemotherapy-resistant genes into bone marrow cells in order to study ways to limit the toxicity of intensive chemotherapy treatments.

Memorial Oct. 9 for Riley diabetes chief

A local memorial service for Gary Randall Freidenberg, MD, will be 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Warren Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Freidenberg, 50, died Sept 23. Services and burial were Sept. 27 in Columbus, Ohio.

A pediatric endocrinologist at Riley Hospital for Children since 1991, Dr. Freidenberg was director of the hospital's diabetes program. He was clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at IUSM and the editor of Diabetes Care journal.

He was a member of the American Diabetes Association, Lawson Wilkins Society, Society for Pediatric Research and the Western Society for Pediatric Research.

Dr. Freidenberg was graduated in 1975 from the Ohio State University School of Medicine. He was a member of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregations and a former member of the Crossroads Performing Arts.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Riley Memorial Association, 50 S. Meridian, Suite 500, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or the Brain Tumor Society 84 Seattle St., Boston, MA 02134-1245

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- -- fax the information to 278-3502;
- -- e-mail the information to mhardin@iupui.edu;
- -- or mail the information to Mary Hardin, LO 401, IUPUI.

The deadline for copy is 8:30 a.m. Mondays, the week prior to publication.

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