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IU docs pioneer new lung cancer therapy

IUSM treated the first patient enrolled in a novel therapy that may help selected patients with lung cancer. The patient, a 77-year-old retired Indiana State Police trooper, was the first person to undergo stereotactic body radiotherapy on Feb. 1.

IUSM is the first medical center in the nation to investigate this procedure

Stereotactic body radiotherapy is non-invasive and utilizes the most advanced techniques, including intensity modulated photon radiation, 3-D imaging and stereotactic body mapping. The procedure employs treatment concepts similar to those used in Gamma Knife radiosurgery, a non-invasive technique which has been very effective in treating brain tumors.

The Indiana Lions Gamma Knife Center at the IU Hospital of Clarian Health was purchased for \$1 million in 1997 with donations from Indiana Lions Club members, with additional support from IU Hospital and Clarian.

This trial is for patients with early stage lung cancer who are not candidates for surgery due to significant related medical problems.

Early stage lung cancer traditionally is treated with surgery, conventional radiation, or both. There is a 60 percent to 70 percent cure rate for early stage lung cancer in patients undergoing surgery and a 20 percent to 30 percent cure rate for those treated with conventional radiation, which involves five weeks to six weeks of daily radiation treatments. The stereotactic treatment plan will involve three outpatient treatments.

"Lung cancer patients frequently have numerous other health problems such as emphysema or heart disease that weaken their reserves, making them poor candidates for major lung surgery," said pulmonologist Mark D. Williams, M.D., clinical assistant professor of medicine and principal investigator of the trial. "If the results of our trial are as promising as we hope, this will provide an exciting new treatment option for these lung cancer patients."

Stereotactic simply means that a 3-D grid system is used to precisely map the location where the therapy should be directed. In this case, a tumor in the lung would be the target. After the location is determined, down to the millimeter, with the technology of sophisticated computer programs, a treatment plan is finalized. The patient then receives multiple "shots" of photon beams produced by a linear accelerator.

"Stereotactic body radiotherapy is a promising emerging technology," said Robert D. Timmerman, M.D., assistant professor of radiation oncology and co-principal investigator on this trial. "This trial is unique and exciting because it is for cancer that originates in the lung, a much more common problem affecting cancer patients. It could revolutionize the way medically inoperable, early-stage lung cancer is treated."

Briefs

New appointments

New faculty appointments include:

Lisa Harris, MD, is chief of medicine at Wishard Health Services and will become chief medical director of the IU Medical Group-Primary Care in June.

William Tierney, MD, is chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics at IUSM.

John Fitzgerald, MD, is assistant dean for clinical affairs-primary care. He will also serve as president and chief executive officer of IUMG-PC.

Fulbright grant

Marilyn Bartlett, MT, MS, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to improve the diagnoses of infectious etiologies with an emphasis on "emerging" parasitic infections such as *Pneumocystis carinii*, *Microsporidia*, *Cyclospora* spp and *Cryptosporidium parvum* in Kenya, Africa. These organisms cause infections in immune compromised individuals.

Bartlett will re-establish a diagnostic laboratory that she had previously set up in Eldoret, Kenya. One of her goals supported by the grant is to bring together people of both cultures to collaborate on building

and maintaining a laboratory that would focus on these problems as they affect people of Kenya.

Bell rings for Mini-Medical School's spring session

The Spring 2000 session of IUSM Mini Medical School will begin Feb. 15.

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

Classes are held Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the University Place Conference Center auditorium. To register, call 317-278-7600.

The class dates and topics are as follows:

Feb. 15 - Franklin Smith, MD "Gene Therapy: New Frontiers for the New Millennium"

Feb. 22 - Barry Eppley, MD, DMD "Latest Advances in Plastic Surgery"

Feb. 29 - Brian Foresman, DO, "Sleep and Sleep Medicine: Was Dr. Seuss Right?"

March 7 - Shailaja Valluri, MD, "Recent Developments in Ophthalmology"

March 14 - Scott Walker, MD, "Anesthesia: Past and Present"

March 21 - Clement McDonald, MD, "Medical Informatics, Electronic Records and Patient Care"

Two IUSM projects funded with 21st Century awards

The first grants from the state's newly created 21st Century Research and Technology Fund were awarded in late January and IUSM earned \$3.8 million of the \$15 million that went to 12 groups that team Hoosier universities and researchers with private industry.

IUSM's direct awards were \$3,273,965. Awards for "sub projects" via others receiving 21st Century awards were \$614,155 for a School of Medicine total of \$3,888,120.

Direct awards went to:

* IUSM and Harlan, Sprague Dawley Inc.-- \$1.99 million for a \$4 million project to develop a rodent resource and research center, Ting-Kai Li, MD, principal investigator,

* IUSM -- \$1.2 million for a \$2.2 million project to establish a center for medical genomics, Howard Edenburg, PhD, principal investigator.

The Indiana General Assembly created the 21st Century Fund last year to give Hoosier researchers financial assistance while they also nurture the state's growing research and development sector. The fund is intended to leverage federal and local dollars to support research and development, commercialize new and emerging technologies and encourage new research collaboration between higher education and business.

IUSM Dean Robert Holden, MD, serves on the fund's board of directors.

Fire awareness program earns safety award

Riley Hospital for Children's Community Education Department has won a top national award for a statewide program that teaches youngsters fire safety and how to avoid becoming burn victims.

The department has been honored with the Allstate Insurance Company Safety Leadership Award. The award, which includes a \$2,500 grant, cites Riley's *Learn Not To Burn Preschool Program*, as among the top 17 safety programs in the nation.

"This program is for preschoolers who need to learn that fire is dangerous and how to avoid situations that threaten their lives," says Karen Bruner Stroup, Ph.D, education department director. "Fire-related deaths in Indiana have dropped in recent years among preschoolers, but we need to continue teaching children so that no tragedies occur."

Learn Not to Burn sites in Indiana are located in Indianapolis, Morocco, Fort Wayne, Goshen, Brownsburg, Monticello, Greencastle, Bicknell, Clarksville, New Albany and Boonville.

The Tiller 7 Safe House is administered by Riley educators and the Pike Township Fire Department; it's funded by Kroger, Aluminum Cans for Burned Children, Wal-Mart Associates and Sam's Club Partners.

IU physicians check into Halftime lineup

As this issue went to press, Kenneth Brandt, MD, and Lawrence Einhorn, MD, were scheduled to be featured in IU Basketball Halftime Show segments on WTTV-Channel 4.

Dr. Brandt talked about performing arts medicine in a Feb. 2 segment during the IU-Penn State game.

The interview with Dr. Einhorn, who discusses cancer treatment, is scheduled for airing at 8 p.m., Feb. 9.

Submissions to Scope

Scope wants your news items.

There are three easy ways to submit story ideas or information to SCOPE:

- -- 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.

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