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Ora Pescovitz new associate dean of research

Ora Pescovitz, MD, the Edwin Letzter Professor of Pediatrics at IUSM, has accepted the position of associate dean of research for the IUSM.

Dr. Pescovitz is director of pediatric endocrinology/diabetology and professor of pediatrics and of physiology/biophysics. She joined the

faculty after completing a medical staff fellowship in endocrinology at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and serving as assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Minnesota.

Currently president of the Society for Pediatric Research, Dr. Pescovitz received a five-year Research Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health in 1991, the IUSM Faculty Teaching Award in 1996 and the IU Teaching Excellence Recognition Award in 1999. She is a diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics.

Dr. Pescovitz is married to Mark Pescovitz, MD, a professor of surgery at IUSM who specialized in kidney and liver transplantation. They have three children.

New device offers option for many hearing aid users

A new option for adults with hearing loss due to nerve damage is available through an implantable hearing device that reduces the confusion of ambient noise and is invisible to friends and colleagues. The Food and Drug Administration approved the device, Vibrant Soundbridge, after completion of clinical trials at IUSM and nine other centers across the nation.

"We see many people who either resist using or are unsuccessful hearing aid users," says Richard Miyamoto, MD, chairman of otolaryngology and one of the 10 principal investigators in the clinical trial. "For these people, an implantable hearing device may offer the aesthetic, comfort and sound qualities they're looking for."

Of the 5.6 million Americans who have hearing aids, 900,000 say they do not use them. In addition, according to the Better Hearing Institute, approximately 28 million people suffer from hearing loss but 80 percent

of those people can't or don't want to wear hearing aids.

The primary hurdles to using hearing aids cited by most people are the aesthetics of hearing aids, the feedback and amplification of background noise and discomfort from the fit and from blocked ear canals. The 90 patients who tested the new device had been previous hearing aid users because of moderate to severe sensorineural hearing loss.

They underwent outpatient surgery to implant the device in their middle ear and returned to have the device activated after eight weeks. In test intervals of one month, three months, then semi-annually, 94 percent of the patients were satisfied with overall sound quality of the implantable device compared to their hearing aid, 86 percent were satisfied with clarity of tone and sound compared to 31 percent with their hearing aid and 88 percent reported that they were more pleased with the sound of their own voices.

Dr. Miyamoto believes that the new hearing technology will be attractive to the growing number of middle-aged Americans who report that they avoid crowded social settings and experience difficulties in transacting business by telephone because of hearing loss.

Adult patients who have mild to moderate hearing loss due to nerve damage in both ears are eligible candidates for the device. The device is not covered by insurance and costs approximately \$25,000. The IU Department of Otolaryngology is the only center in Indiana currently implanting the device.

IU Medical Group - Specialty Care launches physician directory on web

When Internet surfers from around the globe log onto <http://www.iumg.iu.edu> and select the specialty care portal, they will have immediate access to information about the physicians, programs and services of IU Medical Group - Specialty Care through an interactive physician directory.

All faculty members are encouraged to log on and review their biographies. To make changes, print the screen, note any additions on the page and return to IUMG-SC Marketing via fax at 278-3502. Questions may be directed to Lynaire White at 278-3500 or lynaire@iupui.edu.

Information in the database was collected over the past year from new faculty and clinical administrators. About 20 percent of the faculty have not responded with either a photo or updated profile. IUMG-SC Marketing is the process of contacting this group again. No one was omitted from the directory, instead section or departmental phone numbers were included for faculty who did not respond.

The on-line directory offers users several easy-to-use search modes - by disease, by area of specialty or by physician name. Choosing to sort specialists who care for only children or only adults can narrow searches further. A final sort option returns information about the clinical programs offered for a particular disease or condition, along with the corresponding team of specialists.

Bone sarcoma research pilot proposals requested

Indiana University Cancer Center is inviting pilot and feasibility proposals for cancer research projects. Funding is scheduled to begin on Feb. 1, 2001. The funds for these projects have been obtained from numerous individuals that have contributed to the IUCC Bone Cancer

Research Fund.

A primary goal of Indiana University Cancer Center is to stimulate multi-disciplinary and translational research. The latter is research that seeks to develop and translate laboratory observations to innovative clinical trials. The duration of funding is one year and the budget should not exceed \$30,000. Applicants must be IU faculty members, and the funds should not be used for fellowship or training purposes. Applicants may have a funding history, but the proposed project should be separate from previous/current funded projects. The project could be one with which the investigator is changing his or her research focus.

Final applications are due by Nov. 15. The body of the proposal should not exceed two pages. A brief budget should also be included. Budgets may be typed on plain paper. Ten copies will be required. Applications will then be reviewed by an internal committee. Criteria for review are: 1. Scientific merit 2. Bone sarcoma relatedness 3. Multidisciplinary or translational nature 4. Potential for subsequent peer reviewed funding.

The start date for the funding is Feb. 1.

Applications should be sent to:

Stephen D. Williams, MD
IU Cancer Center
Indiana Cancer Pavilion, RT 455
278-0070

September Cancer Combined Seminar Series

The Combined Seminar Series of the IU Cancer Center is conducted from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays in the Cancer Research Institute auditorium. Speakers for September include:

Sept. 13 -- John Hawes, PhD, assistant research scientist, assistant professor, IU Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and director, Biochemistry Biotechnology Facility, "Real-time PCR Technology and Applications."

Sept. 20 -- Mark Goebel, PhD, assistant professor, IU Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Walther Oncology Center, topic to be announced.

Sept. 27 -- John Foley, PhD, assistant professor, IU Department of Anatomy, adjunct assistant professor, IU Department of Dermatology, "Malignancy Associated Hypercalcemia Factor PTHrP: Patterning, Paradigms, and Pathology."

OSCE faculty needed immediately

Faculty interested in being involved with the Objective Structured Clinical Examination test-writing committee are being sought by the Clinical Assessment Advisory Group. The test writing committee is responsible for preparing the clinical scenarios with which the third- and fourth-year medical students are tested.

The OSCE is required for graduation. It assesses students' clinical and professional competence. The students participate in clinical scenarios in which their interaction with standardized patients is videotaped and scored.

Faculty participation in this medical education activity may help to document your activities for promotion and tenure purposes.

If interested in participating in this important undergraduate medical education program, please contact:

Susan Hyatt Ballinger, MD
Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Section of Pediatric Rheumatology
Indiana University School of Medicine
sballing@iupui.edu
317-274-2172

Briefs

Women's health month kick-off September 18

The second annual Women's Health Month celebration Monday, Sept, 18, will feature a nationally recognized authority on domestic violence. Beverly Coleman-Miller, MD, visiting scholar, Harvard University School of Public Health, will present "Violence Against Women" from noon to 1 p.m. in the auditorium of Indiana Government Center South.

A health fair will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Indiana Government Center, South Atrium.

The event is co-sponsored by the Indiana State Department of Health Office of Women's Health, the Indiana Commission on Women and the IU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health.

For additional information, Tina Darling at 317-630-2243.

Sabbatical leave applications due

The IUPUI Dean of the Faculties Office has distributed revised

sabbatical leave application forms for leaves beginning between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2002.

Tenure-track faculty planning to apply should inform their department chair or regional center director by Saturday, Sept. 30.

Please contact Lisa Polen (lvpolen@iupui.edu or 317-278-7263) or Lynn Wakefield (lwakefie@iupui.edu or 317-274-7215) for a copy of the revised application form.

Lecture on incontinence in women

The monthly conference of the IU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health will be from noon to 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 27, in the IU Cancer Research Institute auditorium. Gregory Wahle, MD, will discuss "Management of Incontinence in Women."

Lunch and CME/CEU credits will be available. No reservations are necessary.

For information, please call Tina Darling at 630-2243.

New IUSM faculty listserv contact

Most of the messages previously distributed to the IUSM faculty listserv will be consolidated into the electronic version of Scope, which is now distributed biweekly to faculty, staff and students.

The consolidation is an attempt to eliminate numerous messages sent to

busy faculty members and provide an easily accessible way to communicate with faculty.

Send messages to be considered for the faculty listserv to Marti LaChance at lachance@iupui.edu.

Submissions to Scope

Scope wants your news items.

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

- faxing the information to 278-3502;
- e-mailing the information to mhardin@iupui.edu;
- mailing the information to Mary Hardin, LO 401, IUPUI.

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