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Call to action for IT security

Universities around the world are seeing a marked increase in the number of security incidents related to information technology. Most commonly these tend to be break-ins to computer systems by unauthorized individuals (usually called hackers). Hackers exploit vulnerability in the operating systems of the computer, which they then use to gain access and control of the computer. This is what happened in the recent IU School of Music incident.

These break-ins can involve the copying, modification and making public sensitive and critical institutional, research and personal data. Motives range from curiosity to revenge and criminal use of data, such as Social Security numbers and credit card numbers.

The Trustees of Indiana University are very concerned about information technology

security and passed a resolution at their May meeting aimed at improving the security of the IU's information technology infrastructure.

Social Security numbers tend to be among the most ubiquitous of such data found on computers at IU as they are used as key identification numbers for students, faculty and staff in the university's central information systems. However, with the completion of a new Human Resources Management System in 2002 and a new Student Information System in 2003 the use of SSNs as key IDs for students, faculty, and staff will be eliminated from university-supported systems.

Often SSN data residing on school and departmental computers are vulnerable to being compromised if any of these computers are left open or broken into. Unauthorized public release of SSNs can be damaging for the university in a variety of ways. The incident in the School of Music serves to underline this fact once again.

In light of the Trustees' resolution, each school is asked to take all steps necessary as soon as possible to eliminate the use of SSNs in information systems. An exception to this is the case where SSNs are legally required (e.g. for financial aid and employment). This should be followed by the complete deletion of all files containing SSNs related to the information systems on all computers under your control. This will also help us in our preparation for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) directives.

As a first step in this process, we are asking each department/unit to complete by August 15 an information systems inventory of all departmental systems that contain social security numbers. In order to provide a coordinated effort for the entire school, we are asking that each department/unit identify a contact person who will be responsible for that department's/unit's efforts. Please send the name of that individual to Natalie Bullock at nbullock@iupui.edu in the School of Medicine Office of Technology no later than Monday, July 16. The Office of Technology will provide the contact person with the details regarding the information that must be submitted.

In addition to the inventory and elimination of non-essential social security numbers or other confidential information, you should ask your local support provider to immediately carry out a review of your department/unit computers and certify to you that all possible steps have been taken to secure these computers and the data on them from inappropriate access and disclosure. If your department does not have a local

support provider to carry out the review, the IUSM Office of Technology can assist your area in coordinating a review by the University Information Technology Security Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Sherrie Hammond at shammond@iupui.edu, or 278-4878 in the Office of Technology, and she will be glad to assist.

Your cooperation in helping ensure the protection of sensitive university data needs immediate attention.

-- C. Duane Gaither, IUSM executive associate dean for administration and finance

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U.S. News ranks IUSM/Clarian among top hospitals

Eight specialties at IU, Riley and Methodist hospitals were ranked among the top 50 clinical programs in the *U.S. News & World Report's* "2001 America's Best Hospitals Guide" which hit the newsstands July 16.

The programs and their numerical rankings are:

- Cancer, 14th
- Urology, 15th
- Digestive Disorders, 17th
- Neurology, 28th
- Respiratory Disorders, 31st
- Gynecology, 43rd
- Ear, Nose & Throat, 47th
- Rheumatology, 50th

The rankings are developed by surveys of a geographical cross-section of 150 board-certified specialists in each of 17 specialties mentioned in the magazine's annual report. Hospital rankings are based on criteria related to reputation, mortality rates and other areas such as advanced technology capabilities and nursing care.

In addition, hospitals must meet one of three requirements for eligibility for ranking: affiliation with a medical school, membership in the Counsel of Teaching Hospitals or having a minimum of nine of the 17 key technologies available.

To be ranked in any of the specialties, a hospital must either perform a certain number of defined procedures during the period for which the hospitals are being ranked or must be named an outstanding facility in *U.S. News & World Report's* physician surveys. This year's rankings include results compiled from 1999, 2000 and 2001 surveys.

The final score for ranking is made up of three equal parts related to quality of care: reputation, mortality and a group of other factors related to patient care, such as nursing and technology.

For the full report, see www.usnews.com

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Treadwell named assistant dean

Patricia Treadwell, MD, professor of dermatology, has been appointed assistant dean for academic affairs and cultural diversity. The appointment becomes effective Aug 1.

Dr. Treadwell, who will continue her clinical practice, will report to Lynda Means, MD, executive associate dean for academic affairs, in her capacity as assistant dean.

As assistant dean, Dr. Treadwell will coordinate IUSM faculty professional development programs, oversee IUSM programs to enhance cultural diversity and assist with issues pertaining to academic affairs.

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Bergstein named to endowed chair

Jerry Bergstein, MD, has become the Byron P. and Frances D. Hollett Professor of Pediatrics, pending approval by the Trustees of Indiana University. He is professor and director of the Section of Nephrology at the Department of Pediatrics IUSM.

The Hollett Chair in Pediatrics was established in 2001 by the Riley Memorial Association in partnership with The Clowes Fund and the Department of Pediatrics. Byron Hollett, who died in 1999 after being on dialysis for several years, was a member of the RMA Board of Governors for more than 40 years. He also was a member of The Clowes Fund Board.

Dr. Bergstein joined the IUSM faculty in 1977. Previously he was the director of the Division of Nephrology in the Department of Pediatrics, UCLA School of Medicine. He received his medical degree at the University of Minnesota.

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Crabb named Hickam Professor of Medicine

David Crabb, MD, has been named the John B. Hickam Professor of Medicine pending approval by the Trustees of Indiana University. He is chairman of the Department of Medicine.

The John B. Hickam Professorship in Medicine was established in 1970 with memorial gifts from faculty, staff, family and friends of Dr. Hickam. Educated at Harvard, Dr. Hickam joined the medical faculty at Duke University in 1947 where he remained until his appointment as professor and chairman of the IUSM Department of Medicine in 1958.

Dr. Crabb, who graduated from IUSM in 1978, has been on the school's faculty since 1983. He was named interim chairman of the Department of Medicine in 2000 and chairman earlier this year.

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Indiana University School of Medicine
New and Competing Renewal Research Awards
 May 1 2001 - May 31 2001

Investigator	Department	Funding Agency	Amount of Award
John Hawes	Biochemistry	NIH	\$221,921
Rodney Rhoades	Cellular/Integrative Physiology	NIH-NHLBI	\$149,850
David Wilkes	Medicine- Pulmonary	NIH	\$368,093
Wei-Hua Lee	Pediatrics	NIH	\$287,563
Harikrish Nakshatri	Surgery	NIH-NCI	\$234,675
David A. Williams	Pediatrics	Yale University	\$120,150

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Submissions to Scope

Scope wants your news items.

The deadline for submission is 8:30 a.m. on Fridays. *Scope* is published electronically

and sent to faculty, staff, students, and residents.

There are four 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.
- pasting your plain text message into Scope Web form on the IUSM home page:
<http://medicine.iu.edu>.

Contributions submitted by e-mail should be forwarded in 12 point, plain text format.

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