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AAMC response to President Bush's stem cell decision

(Editor's note: The following statement was released Friday, Aug. 10, from the Association of American Medical Colleges.)

AAMC Encouraged By Bush Stem Cell Decision But Questions Availability And Quality Of Cell Lines

Jordan J. Cohen, MD, president of the Association of American Medical Colleges, issued the following statement on the Administration's announcement that it will limit federal funding of embryonic stem cell research.

The Association of American Medical Colleges commends President Bush for his thoughtful deliberations on the question of whether federal funding should be used to support embryonic stem cell research. While we are encouraged that the President has

allowed limited federal funding for this vital area of scientific discovery, the conditions he has placed on this funding may unnecessarily impede the full promise of research using embryonic stem cells.

The therapeutic potential of embryonic stem cells is remarkable - arguably more remarkable than any previous advance in the history of medical science. These cells have the unique potential to differentiate into any human cell type and offer real hope of life-affirming treatments for diabetes, damaged heart tissue, arthritis, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, ALS and spinal cord injuries, to name but a few examples. There is also the possibility that these cells could be used to create more complex, vital organs, such as kidneys, livers, or even hearts.

We recognize the significant ethical issues that are raised about embryonic stem cell research and we respect the view of those who oppose such research, including some in our own medical school community. However, we are persuaded otherwise by what we believe is an overriding consideration, namely, that it would be tragic to waste the unique potential afforded by embryonic stem cells, destined to be discarded in any case, to alleviate human suffering and enhance the quality of human life.

The academic medicine community is eager to work with the President, and his new council to move embryonic stem cell research forward under appropriate federal guidelines. We urge the Administration to work quickly to guarantee the integrity of and access to the stem cell lines the National Institutes of Health has identified. Our goal remains to ensure that the tremendous scientific and medical benefits of stem cells may one day become available to the millions of American patients who so desperately need them.

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The Association of American Medical Colleges represents the 125 accredited U.S. medical schools; the 16 accredited Canadian medical schools; some 400 major teaching hospitals, including 74 Veterans Administration medical centers; 91 academic and professional societies representing over 100,000 faculty members; and the nation's 67,000 medical students and 102,000 residents.

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Smith named assistant dean

Paula Smith, EdD, has been named assistant dean for medical education in the Office of Medical Student Academic Affairs, and assistant professor, part-time, of surgery. The appointment became effective Aug. 1.

She had previously been serving as acting assistant dean, director of Educational Support Programs, and adjunct assistant professor of medical education.

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Retirement celebration planned for Beverly Hill

Beverly Hill, EdD, is retiring after 20 years of service to IUSM as the director of the Medical Educational Resources Program and Division of Continuing Medical Education.

A reception in her honor will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 30. All are invited to stop by the tent on the lawn in front of Fesler Hall to wish her well in her retirement.

Jonathan Barclay has been appointed to serve as acting director of Medical Educational Resources Program/CME following Dr. Hill's retirement. Barclay will assume his new duties Sept. 1.

He has served in several capacities at MERP/CME since 1995, most recently as associate director for Distance Learning and Outreach.

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Medical training journey begins for IU students

Marilyn Gearhart and her daughter Shannon always have been close and shared many experiences. For the next four years, they will become even closer as they train to become physicians at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

The Auburn, Ind., mother and daughter will be among 280 students participating in the Sunday, Aug. 19, White Coat Ceremony, which will be 1 p.m. in Hilbert Circle Theatre. With their families, school faculty and other guests looking on, the first-year students will receive their laboratory coats and recite the Hippocratic oath.

"The White Coat Ceremony impresses upon students the altruistic nature of the doctor-and-patient relationship," said IUSM Dean Craig Brater, MD. "It encourages students to accept the obligations inherent in the practice of medicine, to excel in science, to be compassionate and to maintain the honor and the dignity of the profession."

The Gearharts are the first mother-and-daughter team to be admitted together at the IU School of Medicine, a situation both view as a benefit. "We each have our own particular strengths and weaknesses, and we can support each other as needed," notes Shannon, a recent biology honors graduate at Loyola University in Chicago. "Certainly, this is an unusual situation but my mother always has been there for me. Now I'll be there for her, too."

"But it's highly debatable we'll sit together in class," jokingly adds Marilyn, a former teacher and mathematics chair at DeKalb High School near Auburn.

In 1993, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation established the White Coat Ceremony, a popular program among medical schools around the country.

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Bibliographic Citation Managers obtain site license for IUSM

The Ruth Lilly Medical Library, together with the departments of medicine, radiology, psychiatric research, and pediatrics, IUPUI libraries and UITS have purchased a site license for the three citations owned by ISI: Endnote, Reference Manager and ProCite. (IUB Libraries and UITS have made a similar purchase for the IUB campus.) The software is available for all IUSM students, faculty and staff.

It is anticipated that the software will be available for distribution on a single disk in mid-August.

There will be an information session on the three software packages in the IUPUI University

Library auditorium Wednesday, Sept.5. Check the library's citation manager information page at <http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/citemgr/> for additional updates on the information session and on the release dates of the cdroms.

The software enables users to maintain a database of references and citations and create bibliographies and references for scientific publications. Endnote and Reference Manager are in widespread use throughout IUSM , while ProCite has some advanced features for more technical bibliographic projects.

The software will be available to download for free from IUware Online at iuware.iu.edu/IUware.asp, and for \$5 per CD at IUPUI bookstores and the medical library beginning August 13.

The purpose of this early announcement is to alert users, particularly those at the Medical Education Centers, so they can avoid any duplicate purchases. The library will mail the cdroms to Centers outside of Indianapolis through the order form at <http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/techsupport/pubsoft.html>

For further information, contact Julie Fore at jfore@iupui.edu.

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Pediatric and child nutrition conference Sept. 11-14

A Sept. 11-14 conference featuring nationally recognized experts will address major advances in nutritional information and management for newborns in intensive care, high-risk infants, children and adolescents.

The conference, Building Bright Futures: Neonatal, Pediatric and Adolescent Nutrition, will be at the Indiana Historical Society. It is sponsored by the IUSM Nutrition and Dietetics Program, the Section of Pediatric Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine of the IU Department of Pediatrics, the Riley MCH Partners in Leadership Education, Riley Hospital for Children and the U.S. Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

Guest speakers will include Samuel Fomon, MD, and Ekhard Ziegler, MD, both from the University of Iowa; Lawrence Gartner, MD, University of Chicago; Van Hubbard, MD, PhD, from the National Institutes of Health; Connie Weaver, PhD, Purdue University, and David Gallahue, EdD, Indiana University.

For additional information, contact the registrar at Continuing Medical Education, 274-8353 or visit <http://iumeded.med.iupui.edu/>.

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Stride right with your heart

The American Heart Association is sponsoring a non-competitive walk to raise money to fight heart disease and stroke Saturday, Sept. 15, at Military Park. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 8:30 a.m. There is no rain date.

One- or three-mile courses are offered and company teams and individuals are encouraged to participate.

For additional information, contact the American Heart Association at 876-4850.

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Free PVD Screenings offered

The IUSM Department of Radiology will offer free screenings to people suffering from leg pain to determine if they are at risk for peripheral vascular disease, a common condition affecting thousands of Hoosiers.

The department will sponsor free screenings from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 20, in room 4420, at Indiana University Hospital. The department's participation is part of the nationwide *Legs for Life*[™] *National Screening Week for PVD*, sponsored by the Society of Cardiovascular & Interventional Radiology. The screening will be coordinated by Michael S. Stecker, M.D., assistant professor of radiology, and an SCVIR member.

PVD is a medical condition in which arteries in the leg can become narrowed or blocked. Untreated, walking can become difficult due to pain, numbness or muscle weakness. Skin ulcers can develop and in severe cases, gangrene can set in, possibly.

To arrange for your free screening, call Clarian On-Call at (317) 916-3525. Participants with Internet access can visit <http://www.indyrad.iupui.edu/legsforlife> for more information.

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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*:

- fax the information to 278-3502;
- e-mail the information to mhardin@iupui.edu;

- mail the information to Mary Hardin, LO 401, IUPUI.
- paste 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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