



December 17, 2001

Volume 5, Number 38 • Indianapolis, Indiana

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Competency committee seeks input

Scott Engum, MD, is seeking faculty participation on the Competency Committee for Basic Clinical Skills. The committee's mission is to facilitate and document the development of the competency curriculum by medical students throughout IUSM's statewide system.

Dr. Engum, who is competency director for basic clinical skills, said the committee's mission is achieved through the identification of courses that can best handle competency components, coordination with course directors to ensure coverage of the entire competency, and possibly the development of new courses.

The committee also will serve as a resource for course directors for ideas

on how to teach a competency or to facilitate students' achievement of it, and how to develop acceptable assessment tools. The committee will be responsible for tracking student progress and developing remedial action.

Participation in the committee may be particularly beneficial to faculty who are working to establish excellence in teaching for promotion and tenure purposes.

Faculty who are interested in serving on this competency committee or who would like additional information should contact Dr. Engum at (317) 274-5437, or sengum@iupui.edu.

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New medical imaging course offered this spring

In response to a growing interest in imaging in many research specialties, a course has been designed to meet the needs of the disparate department employees it may attract. The graduate level course BME 595, Principles of Medical Imaging, is being offered in the Spring 2002 semester.

Course coordinator is Evan Morris, PhD, assistant professor of radiology and biomedical engineering. He can be reached by e-mail at emorris@iupui.edu, or by calling 274-1802.

Course Description: Quantitative introduction to the physical and mathematical principles of medical imaging and its applications. Techniques to be covered include: X-ray projection imaging, computed tomography, positron emission tomography, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging, image reconstruction algorithms and data modeling techniques.

Goals: To foster an understanding of the different medical imaging signals, their relative advantages and disadvantages and a familiarity with first principles. To provide hands-on experience with analysis of medical imaging data via problem sets and a semester-long (collaborative) data analysis/research project.

The course will be taught from the perspective of physicists and engineers actively engaged in medical imaging research from both the methodology and application approaches.

Dr. Morris said students from engineering, psychology, neurobiology and other areas of study may be interested. To take advantage of their widely varying backgrounds, students will work on interdisciplinary projects in groups with students of different expertise.

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Informational IUSM Web site created for disaster preparedness

In response to the raised alert status in response to terrorist acts in this country, Dean Craig Brater, MD, has requested that the IUSM disaster preparations and emergency response activities be organized by Rose Fife, MD, associate dean for research. Dr. Fife is directing an emergency preparedness and bioterrorism response committee of faculty and staff.

To date, the group has determined that an easily accessible center of information should be established. The product is a new Web-based matrix of information created within the IUSM Web site and accessible from the school's home page at www.medicine.iu.edu.

The direct link to the site is medicine.iu.edu/disaster/index.html.

The committee will post procedures and actions that faculty, staff, residents and students need to take or understand in preparation for, or in response to, a natural or man-made disaster. Currently, updates are posted weekly, or sometimes even daily.

Faculty, staff, residents and students should visit the site to become familiar with its structure, the offices responsible for organizing an emergency response on this campus, as well as in Clarian, Wishard and VA hospitals. Not only are IU faculty in these facilities each day but so are students and residents who need to know the response drill for each of the hospital sites.

These are continuously evolving plans as hospital committees augment their current plans.

Updates in Scope will be made whenever significant activities occur.

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Faculty invited to meet potential students in 2002

Admissions Ambassadors are inviting IUSM faculty to stop by the Ambassadors' hospitality room on medical school interview days to give prospective students the opportunity to meet and casually talk with faculty. Current medical students will also be there.

The south end of the Van Nuys Medical Science atrium will serve as the hospitality room from 8:30 a.m. until noon and again from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the following interview days:

- Jan. 2
- Jan. 16
- Feb. 13

- Feb. 27

Snacks and beverages will be available.

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AAMC joins partnership for emergency preparedness

The Association of American Medical Colleges has joined forces with the American Hospital Association, the American Public Health Association, the American College of Emergency Physicians and several other groups representing nurses, fire fighting services, emergency medical services and county and city health officials to launch a new coalition, Partnership for Community Readiness.

The new coalition will advocate for strengthening community readiness for biological, chemical, and nuclear terrorism and other disasters. The Partnership for Community Safety: Strengthening America's Readiness has approached federal policymakers to show support for sustained comprehensive readiness efforts in the nation's public health departments, emergency departments, hospitals, fire services, emergency medical services organizations, medical education institutions and the nursing profession.

While proposals pending in Congress represent important first steps, the Partnership will advocate for a comprehensive and sustained approach to community readiness. Partnership members said the tragic events of September 11 and the recent anthrax incidents demonstrate the urgency for strengthening community preparedness plans to protect the public from acts of terrorism.

In addition to working together to help shape national policy, the new

alliance will promote collaboration among its members to retool disaster plans and to focus on the need to increase capacity for front-line responders to terrorism.

Partnership members will work to reduce duplication of effort and develop a "bank" of best practices through exchanging ideas and highlighting model programs. The Partnership also plans to educate the public about local readiness issues.

The growing coalition currently consists of the American Ambulance Association, American College of Emergency Physicians, American Hospital Association, American Organization of Nurse Executives, American Public Health Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Association of County and City Health Officials, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the National Association of State EMS Directors.

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Honors

John Eble, MD, MBA, has been named an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. Formal admission to fellowship took place at the Royal College's Admission of Fellows Ceremony in Hong Kong in October. Dr. Eble became the 12th Honorary Fellow in the history of the Royal College and only the third from the United States. The Council's decision was based on Dr. Eble's contributions to the advancement of pathology within Australasia through his dedication to post-graduate training and research projects in Australia and New Zealand and in particular, his commitment to the field of urogenital pathology and pathobiology of renal cell neoplasms. The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia was founded in 1956 in

Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Patricia Keener, MD, associate chair of the IU Department of Pediatrics and professor of clinical pediatrics, is the winner of the 2002 Ernest A. Lynton Award for Faculty Professional Service & Academic Outreach. She will receive the award at the American Association for Higher Education's annual forum in Phoenix in late January. Dr. Keener is being recognized for her academic and community outreach programs.

Mikael Rinne, a biochemistry MD/PhD student in the laboratory of Mark Kelley, PhD, Jonathon and Jennifer Simmons Professor of Pediatrics, has just been awarded a Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation grant for dissertation research entitled "Imbalancing DNA base excision repair sensitizes breast cancer cells to chemotherapy."

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Scientific Calendar online

A comprehensive listing on IUSM seminars, lectures and Grand Rounds can be accessed at <http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/calendar/>. To place items on the Scientific Calendar, please forward them to Iona Sewell at imsewell@iupui.edu.

To keep the electronic version of Scope as streamlined as possible, only seminars and lectures of general or multi-disciplinary interest will be included.

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Scope will be on holiday hiatus

Scope will be taking a break from its weekly publishing schedule following this issue. Weekly publication will resume after the New Year's holiday, with the first issue appearing in your e-mail Monday, Jan. 7.

The deadline for submission of *Scope* material is 8:30 a.m. Fridays. Submissions can be forwarded to Mary Hardin by e-mail at mhardin@iupui.edu, by fax at 278-3502, or by mail to Long 401.

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