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## **Central Indiana Life Sciences Initiative announced**

Indiana University School of Medicine is a recognized leader in biomedical research so it comes as no surprise it will be a key player in the Central Indiana Life Sciences Initiative, a venture unveiled by Hoosier business and education leaders Feb. 13.

The city of Indianapolis, the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, the Indiana Health Industry Forum, Indiana University and Purdue University have combined forces and scientific strengths to develop the initiative, a non-profit enterprise. The ultimate goal is to increase the number of jobs, businesses and research opportunities in the life sciences

industry in central Indiana, which will impact the state's economy and the health and well being of Hoosiers.

For additional information on the initiative, see [www.medicine.indiana.edu](http://www.medicine.indiana.edu) or [www.cils.com](http://www.cils.com).

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## **A Moment for Patient Safety and Quality Health Care**

### ***Fifth in a series***

By Herbert E. Cushing, MD

### **How Effective Are Procedures for Obtaining Informed Consent?**

The ethical and legal purpose of obtaining informed consent is to ensure that all competent patients understand the risks and benefits of a proposed therapy and the alternatives that may be available, and that they are given the opportunity to decide whether or not a proposed therapy is undertaken.

One study of audio-taped conversations between 1,057 patients and 59 primary care physicians and 65 surgeons found that only 17 percent of these conversations contained all of the required components (risks, benefits, alternatives, other pertinent information) for any therapy, whether simple or complex.

In addition to issues of completeness, there are issues of receptivity. Older patients have been shown to have poorer recall than younger ones; also, 40 million to 44 million Americans are functionally illiterate; even among the educated population, reading level does not always equal the number of years of school completed. For many patients, English is not the primary language. Consent forms and other media must be prepared with these factors in mind.

Methods most likely to improve patients' understanding of, and participation in, the selection of a therapy include:

- improving the readability of consent forms,
- ensuring that written descriptions use basic, non-technical terms and are presented in the patient's primary language,
- designing structured discussions between physician or nurse and patient to ensure that all necessary components are covered and that patients' questions are elicited and answered,
- using media aids such as videotapes,
- using a brief follow-up questionnaire to verify patients' understanding.

This investigation of patient consent procedures was completed by Pizzi, Goldfarb, and Nash, at Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine. To read the complete article, see [www.ahrq.gov/clinic/ptsafety/chap48.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/ptsafety/chap48.htm).

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This is the fifth of eleven practices identified by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as "clear opportunities for safety improvement." Through a critical study of recent literature and through clinical trials, these practices were found to have the greatest positive impact on patient outcomes, with the least downside risk, including cost, of 79 practices studied.

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## **Student's art in JAMA**

The artwork of Felicia Hinant, a first-year student at IUSM, is featured

in the Feb. 13 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Her work, *Ladybugs*, appears as the cover art of the Medical Student JAMA portion of the magazine. She used acrylics and India ink on watercolor paper to create an intriguing abstract.

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## **Kohler, Haak to be honored on Founders Day**

Richard B. Kohler, MD, professor in the Division of Infectious of Diseases, and Richard A. Haak, PhD, professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, will be among Indiana University faculty honored at the annual Founders Day ceremony.

Dr. Kohler will receive the Herman Frederic Lieber Memorial Award for teaching service excellence. The award was established by the IU Foundation and now sponsored by Mrs. Herman Lieber of Indianapolis.

Dr. Haak will receive the W. George Pinnell Award for Outstanding Service, which recognizes faculty members who "have shown exceptional breadth of involvement and depth of commitment in service to the university, their profession or the public." The award was established in 1988 in honor of the former executive vice president of IU, who also served as president of the Indiana University Foundation and the IU Kelley School of Business.

Drs. Kohler and Haak will be recognized at a special ceremony, 1 p.m., Sunday, March 3, at Assembly Hall in Bloomington.

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## **Student research opportunities available**

The Student Research Fellowship Program was founded in 1988 by the Midwest Alliance for Health Education in collaboration with Indiana University School of Medicine-Fort Wayne Medical Education Center. Initially, the program was designed to provide a nine-week clinical research experience with stipends for medical students. More recently, the program was expanded to include the participation of engineering, nursing, law and pre-medical students.

In the 14 years of operation, 236 students successfully completed the program. One-hundred-fifty-three local professionals from the legal, medical, engineering, nursing and basic science communities have served as preceptors. The program has made it possible for northeastern Indiana physicians to increase their research productivity in addition to their existing excellence in clinical care.

Thirty-five of the completed projects have been presented as posters at national meetings or have been published in peer-reviewed journals.

Nearly 80 percent of the past medical students have submitted their research papers in partial fulfillment of an IUSM graduation requirement. Three of these medical students received meritorious recognition for the high quality of their research papers. Four of our past students have become research mentors; and twelve now practice medicine in Fort Wayne.

### **Program specifics**

This program will be in its 15th annual cycle during summer 2002 and is designed to attract students to various fields of clinical research. Students also gain valuable experience assessing validity of current clinical practice standards in a discipline. Research methods and data analysis are emphasized.

**Target audience:** First- and second-year medical students will be eligible for summer fellowships. Some undergraduate pre-medical students as well as graduate students will be eligible, depending on availability of funding and mentors. Additionally, one to four positions are reserved for first- or second-year law students and up to three positions are reserved for advanced degree nursing students.

**Program components:** Student applicants will complete a research fellowship application form. Specific sponsors or preceptors will be identified for qualified students as funding becomes available. Attempts will be made to place a research student in an area of personal interest. Review criteria for selection include strong student academic records, personal achievement and integrity, research skills and experience and recommendations from scholastic advisors. Sponsors/preceptors will be encouraged to participate in the recruitment of students and will provide students with guidance and workspace during the summer. Students are expected to consider the program as their full-time summer employment. Structured academic training programs and clinical observation beyond the specific project (provided by the mentor) also will be encouraged.

**Stipend:** Each student will receive a stipend of \$766.66 per three-week period for a maximum award of \$2,300 over a nine-week program.

**Progress milestones:** Each student will be requested to attend a series of dinner meetings at three-week intervals. The purpose of these programs is to provide research fellows with additional information on abstract preparation, poster preparation, manuscript preparation and data analysis. The dinner meetings serve as a forum to present preliminary data and to become acquainted with other students and mentors. Each student is expected to deliver a brief oral report at each meeting.

At the conclusion of the summer program, a student must prepare a meeting abstract, research poster, and research manuscript evaluated by his/her preceptor in order to receive final stipend payment. If

performance evaluation at the conclusion of the program is desired, a written evaluation by each preceptor can be prepared. These evaluation summaries can be forwarded (if a student requests them) to their respective campus academic advisors.

For additional information or to apply, contact:

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## **Students will become DNA detectives at IUSM**

Hoosier high school students will soon probe the world of DNA, the complex components that form the building blocks of human life, alongside some of the nation's top scientists at IUSM.

Forty-eight students will participate in the third Molecular Medicine in Action program, March 10-11, at the IU Cancer Research Institute. There they will work side-by-side in laboratory stations with researchers in one of the most modern cancer research centers in the country.

Under the supervision of IU scientists, the students will rotate through work stations and labs. They will learn how DNA is isolated and analyzed; how gene mutations are identified; how modified genes are used in therapy; and meet with patients with genetic-related diseases to learn how they deal with conditions.

Supporting this year's Molecular Medicine in Action program are the Riley Memorial Association, Clarian Health Partners, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Indiana Department of Education, Indiana Association of Biology Teachers and the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers.

For additional information, see the program's Web site at [www.iupui.edu/~wellsctr/MMIA](http://www.iupui.edu/~wellsctr/MMIA).

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## **IN Print**

The fourth edition of "Localization in Clinical Neurology" has been published. Authors of the edition are IUSM Department of Neurology Chairman José Biller, MD; Paul Brazis, MD, associate professor of neurology at Mayo Medical School; and Joseph Masdeu, MD, PhD, director of the Department of Neurology and neurosurgery at the University of Navarra Medical School, Pamplona, Spain.

The edition was released in 2001 by Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins.

Two IUSM faculty members are among five editors for a recently published Spanish language neurology text "Tratado de Neurologia Clinica."

IUSM Department of Neurology Chairman José Biller, MD, and Jorge Asconapé, associate professor of neurology, contributed chapters and edited the publication. Other IUSM neurology faculty who are contributing authors include Karen Roos, MD; Robert Pascuzzi, MD; Edward Dropcho, MD; Fernando González-Portillo, MD; Alfredo López-Yúnez, MD; and Ulises Nobo, MD.

The text was published in 2002 by Editorial Medica Panamericana.

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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](mailto: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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## 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](mailto:mhardin@iupui.edu)
- mail the information to Mary Hardin, LO 401, IUPUI
- paste your plain text message into Scope Web form on the IUSM faculty & staff page: <http://medicine.iu.edu/faculty/index.html>

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

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