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Funds available for cancer research

Institutional grants for young investigators are available from the American Cancer Society. The deadline for submitting applications is **Saturday, June 15**.

Grants for this ACS fund are usually allocated in amounts of \$15,000 to \$20,000. The purpose of the grant is to assist young investigators in the ranks of assistant professor and assistant scientist to start projects and to foster cancer research at the IUSM and IU-Bloomington campuses.

Application forms may be obtained from the IU Cancer Center administrative office in the Indiana Cancer Pavilion, room 455, or by calling 278-0070, or by e-mail at juakenne@iupui.edu.

The applications will be reviewed by the ACS Institutional Grant Committee. The investigators who will receive grants must submit an interim and a final progress report as required by the American Cancer Society.

Applicants with prior funding from the ACS or those with significant funding from other sources are not eligible to apply. Limited support for partial salary may be allowed. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or approved for a green card.

Submit original application plus 14 copies to Elizabeth Parsons, Indiana Cancer Pavilion, room 455.

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A Moment for Patient Safety and Quality Health Care

Eighth in a series

By Herbert E. Cushing, M.D.

Ultrasound Guidance Can Reduce Central Vein Catheter Placement Failures and Complications

Because of the variety of indications for their use, central venous catheters are placed in many hospital settings by clinicians whose training and experience may vary significantly. Insertions have commonly been performed using "blind" techniques that are guided

by anatomical landmarks.

It is estimated that millions of subclavian-vein catheters are placed in patients in the United States each year. Hazards associated with placement, whether successful or not, (insertion may be unsuccessful in up to 20 percent of cases) include: arterial puncture, hematoma, pneumothorax, chylothorax, brachial plexus injury, arrhythmias, air embolus, catheter malposition and catheter knotting. It is believed that such major complications occur at a rate of 0.5 to 10 percent. Other complications include the possible delay of infusion necessary in an emergency and the considerable anxiety and discomfort of patients whose failed placement necessitates repeated attempts.

The use of bedside ultrasound machines for real-time guidance of central vein catheter placement appears to improve the success rate and reduce complications. The analysis of studies leading to this conclusion included ultrasound-guided placement with and without Doppler. In these studies, the complication rate was reduced by 78 percent and the mean number of attempts leading to successful placement was reduced by 40 percent over "blind" placement techniques.

The most favorable results were seen with the use of ultrasound-guided placement where clinicians were less experienced. No significant difference was found in the amount of time required to complete the placement with ultrasound assistance as compared with "blind" placement.

If the availability of ultrasound machines is limited, the greatest advantage may be gained by using them to guide placement by less experienced clinicians and in patients who are at greater risk for complications, due to morbid obesity, cachexia, local scarring from surgery or radiation treatment, and other conditions.

For more information on this topic, see
www.ahrq.gov/clinic/ptsafety/chap21.htm.

This is the eighth of 11 practices identified by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Evidence-Based Practice Centers as "clear opportunities for safety improvement." Through a critical study of recent literature and sponsorship of clinical trials, these practices were found to have the greatest positive impact on patient outcomes, with the least downside risk, including cost, of the 79 practices studied.

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Pediatric Travel Medicine Clinic at Riley Hospital

The IUSM Section of Pediatric Infectious Diseases has opened a Pediatric Travel Medicine Clinic at Riley Hospital for Children. The clinic is directed by John Christenson, MD.

This multidisciplinary specialty clinic is devoted to the prevention of travel-related medical problems in the young international traveler and the evaluation and treatment of pediatric travel-related illnesses. Services are provided for children of all ages, as well as the accompanying adult family members.

The clinic staff provide extensive education in preparation for travel with special attention paid to the most current medical issues for the areas on the traveler's itinerary. Patients are provided with the appropriate medications, vaccines and advice to protect travelers.

Dr. Christenson joined the IU faculty in 2001. He spent the previous

14 years at the University of Utah, where he helped create a similar pediatric travel medicine clinic. For 11 years he has worked with physicians in various countries, especially Guatemala and Ghana, on issues of international health and education. He is a member of a small group of clinicians nationally recognized as experts in pediatric travel medicine.

For an appointment to the Pediatric Travel Medicine Clinic or to speak to one of the pediatric travel medicine specialists, call 274-7260.

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IU Geriatrics Conference - May 29

The latest in the series of IU Geriatrics Conferences will be 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 29, in Wishard Memorial Hospital, T2008 A&B.

James Dillon, MD, IUSM professor of medicine will discuss management of cardiovascular disease in older adults.

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Fifth Annual Mental Health Symposium - May 31

"Mental Health in Troubled Times: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" is the theme of the fifth annual Mental Health Symposium, sponsored by the IUSM Department of Psychiatry and the Mental Health Association in Indiana. The day-long event will be Friday, May 31, at the Union Station Conference Center in Downtown Indianapolis.

Brad Schmidt, PhD, will be the keynote speaker. He is an associate professor of psychology at Ohio State University and director of the Anxiety and Stress Disorders Clinic there. He is the author of the cover story in the February 2002 issue of *Psychology Today* entitled "Fear Not."

Battalion Chief Brian Mulhern will be the luncheon speaker. Mulhern is a member of the City of Lawrence Fire Department and is a member of Indiana Task Force #1. His topic will be "The Mental Health Aftermath of 9/11."

IUSM Department of Psychiatry faculty will conduct workshops on topics ranging from religion and psychiatry to pervasive developmental disorders.

For additional information, contact the Mental Health Association in Indiana at 638-3501.

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Honors

Louis Cantor, MD, professor of ophthalmology, has been selected to serve on the Residency Review Committee for Ophthalmology by the American Medical Association Board of Trustees.

John Coleman III, MD, professor of surgery and director of the Section for Plastic Surgery, was named chairman of American Board of Plastic Surgery at the group's annual meeting in April. Dr. Coleman was elected to the board in 1996 and served as the oral examination chairman for two years before being elected vice-chairman in 2000 and as chair-elect from 2001-2002.

The Indiana Parent Information Network, a "parents helping parents" organization for families of children with special needs, celebrated its fifteen years of serving the community by recognizing individuals throughout the state who have made a contribution to the health, education and/or welfare of a child with special needs. Families from all over the state nominated child care providers, teachers, nurses and therapists for a "Helping Hands...Loving Hearts" Award. Riley Hospital staff honored by the group include **Linda Hankins**, Community Education and Child Advocacy; **Judy Hollingsworth**, a pulmonary nurse; and **Dana Wellman**, a stem cell transplant unit nurse.

Subah Packer, PhD, has received the M. Irene Ferrer Award for Original Research in Gender-Specific Medicine for the second consecutive year. The award was presented at the May 8 conference of the Partnership for Women's Health at Columbia University.

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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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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 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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