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## **Director named for Stark Neurosciences Research Institute**

Gerry Oxford, PhD, has been selected as the first executive director of the Paul and Carole Stark Neurosciences Research Institute. Dr. Oxford, who also will be a professor of pharmacology and toxicology, will begin his duties at IUSM July 1, pending approval of the Trustees of Indiana

## University.

The selection of Dr. Oxford ended several years of planning and a 19-month search for the position made possible through the generosity of Dr. Paul and Carole Stark, whose \$15 million gift will help establish an extensive neurosciences research program at IUSM. The Institute will encompass many disciplines of research including medical and molecular genetics, chemistry, anatomy, pharmacology, psychiatry, pathology, physiology, computation, neurology, surgery and imaging.

Dr. Oxford will be charged with initiating the realization of the Institute's mission which is to enhance collaboration among scientists who share the goal of understanding the basis of central nervous system diseases and help them realize a greater potential as contributors to the body of neuroscience research.

In announcing the selection, IUSM Dean Craig Brater, MD, said Dr. Oxford's experience and talents will lead the new Center into a place of scientific prominence while capitalizing on the existing research talents at IU.

"Gerry Oxford is one of the top neuroscientists in the country," said Dr. Brater. "He is a noted scientist, but he also brings the attribute of having developed a highly collaborative approach to research and education. He is the perfect person to be the initial executive director of the Stark Neurosciences Institute, where he will coalesce multidisciplinary programs in this area that have remarkable potential for improving our understanding and thereby treatment of a host of now devastating illnesses."

Dr. Oxford has been on faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill since 1976. He was named a professor in 1988 in the Department of Physiology and in 1998 was honored with the rank of Distinguished Professor in the Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology.

Along with his research endeavors, Dr. Oxford directs the University of North Carolina's Neurobiology Curriculum. He holds membership in numerous professional societies and was president of the Society of General Physiologists, the primary professional society representing research on the physiology and biophysics of ion channels. He serves on several editorial boards for professional journals and is a section editor of *Sensory Neuron*.

Dr. Oxford graduated cum laude from Elon College and completed his doctorate in physiology at Emory University. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in pharmacology at Duke University.

His research interests for the past 20 years have focused on electrophysiological and molecular studies of single cells to investigate the interplay between various neurotransmitter receptors, ion channels and cell signaling pathways that regulate neurosecretory functions and pain sensation in the nervous system.

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## **Fort Wayne Center receives \$2 million for cardiovascular research**

A comprehensive research initiative will build strong health-care alliances that greatly increase cardiovascular research in Indiana, thanks to a \$2 million grant from The Lutheran Foundation to the IUSM Center for Medical Education at Fort Wayne.

The grant to the Fort Wayne Center will establish the Northern Indiana Cardiovascular Research and Education Center. It was approved at the Foundation's Annual Meeting Oct. 24.

This funding enables the School to recruit a top-notch scientist to direct a research program based at the Center. Other components of the center

include the hiring of other researchers and technicians, and the purchase of costly research equipment and "A program such as this can make our center an effective spoke in IU School of Medicine's research hub that is emerging in Indianapolis," said Barth Ragatz, PhD, assistant dean and director of the Fort Wayne Center. He was referring to the School's vision of expanding its campuses' participation in the emerging life sciences industry and research associated with the IU-based Indiana Genomics Initiative.

A fund was established at The Lutheran Foundation in February 1998 with proceeds from the estate of Francis Alene Collins.

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## **Visit the IUPUI Health and Benefits Fair today: Oct. 28**

The IUPUI Health and Benefits Fair will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Monday, Oct. 28**, on the second floor of the University Place Conference Center.

Fair highlights include free health and fitness screenings; information on health and fitness from 40 different professional groups and benefit plan representatives; tips on how to select a health care plan and chance to talk with retirement and financial planning representatives; mini workshops on topics as diverse as women's health issues, nutrition and protecting identity theft. The health screenings are for blood pressure, cancer, diabetes and other illness and are provided by IU Medical Group physicians.

The fair is sponsored by the Human Resources Administration at IUPUI. For more information and to view the calendar for the fair, see [www.hra.iupui.edu](http://www.hra.iupui.edu).

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## **Proteomics abstracts deadline Nov. 1**

The Indiana Genomics Initiative Proteomics Symposium will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., **Friday, Nov. 15**, in the University Place Conference Center auditorium. The program includes sessions addressing advances in the proteomic core technologies and applications relevant to human health.

The symposium is free and open to all interested persons, but it is requested that those intending to attend e-mail Mu Wang, PhD, at [muwang@iupui.edu](mailto:muwang@iupui.edu). Questions about the abstracts or meeting agenda also can be addressed to Dr. Wang.

### **Call for abstracts**

The event will conclude with a poster session/reception open to all attendees. All participants, especially students, are encouraged to submit abstracts for proteomics-related poster presentations. Abstracts should include title, authors and affiliations in RTF format, 250 words maximum. Posters should be no larger than 24 inches wide by 36 inches tall. Abstract deadline is **Friday, Nov. 1**. and abstracts should be electronically submitted to [Dr. Wang](#).

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## **Web address book taken off-line**

Due to technical security concerns, the "Find People" feature on the IUSM and IU home pages has been temporarily disabled for computers outside the IU network.

Those who use campus dial-up or virtual private network services are still part of the IU network.

The University's Integrated Technology policy office is working to institute a new and more secure Web address book that's accessible to the public. It should be available within the next six months.

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## **2002 Scientific Session abstracts online**

The abstracts from the 2002 Scientific Sessions have been included in the Ruth Lilly Medical Library digital library at [www.medlib.iupui.edu/digital](http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/digital). Follow the IUSM Faculty Conferences link, [www.medlib.iupui.edu/digital/iusmconf.html](http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/digital/iusmconf.html).

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## **Broxmeyer receives Landsteiner Memorial Award**

Hal Broxmeyer, PhD, has been selected as the 2002 Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award recipient for his research in the regulation and use of stem and progenitor cells.

The prestigious award, presented by the American Association of Blood Banks, claims seven Nobel Prize winners among its honorees. It recognizes original research resulting in an important contribution to the body of scientific knowledge in field of blood-related disease.

His laboratory research, which led to the use of umbilical cord blood for stem cell transplantation to treat a large number of malignant and non-malignant diseases, is internationally recognized. Dr. Broxmeyer was a member of the team that successfully performed the first cord blood transplant in 1988 in France for a young boy suffering from Fanconi anemia, a pre-leukemic and often fatal disease. Dr. Broxmeyer's laboratory set up the

world's first cord blood banks, which processed the blood for the first five cord blood transplants.

His research continues into the feasibility of using stem cells from cord blood in transplants of children and adults suffering from blood-related diseases such as leukemia and anemia. Cord blood has proven to be a rich source for stem cells from which blood cells develop. Cord blood transplants have caused less graft vs. host disease, compared to bone marrow transplants, and have made available a source of life-saving stem cells for those who could not be adequately tissue matched for a bone marrow transplant.

Another area of research for Dr. Broxmeyer centers on methods to make the cord blood stem cells proliferate outside the body so there is an adequate amount for transplantation into the larger bodies of adults.

Dr. Broxmeyer is chairman and Mary Margaret Walther Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, and scientific director of the Walther Oncology Center at Indiana University School of Medicine.

The Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award is sponsored annually by Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics and presented by the American Association of Blood Banks.

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## **IUSM pediatric gastroenterologist receives unique award**

Joseph Fitzgerald, MD, professor of pediatrics and founding director of the Section of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition at IUSM, is the first pediatric gastroenterologist ever to be selected for recognition as a Master of the American College of Gastroenterology.

A mastership is awarded to individuals to recognize their achievement in clinical gastroenterology and teaching, and their contribution to the college in service, leadership and education. The American College of Gastroenterology has nearly 15,000 members and fellows and fewer than 40 members have received this award.

Dr. Fitzgerald was inducted in October at the annual American College of Gastroenterology Leadership Dinner in Seattle.

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## **Grosfeld honored by American Academy of Pediatrics**

Jay Grosfeld, MD, chairman of the Department of Surgery, has been awarded one of the nation's most prestigious honors for pediatric surgery.

Dr. Grosfeld, who is the Lafayette F. Page Professor and director of the Pediatric Surgery Section at Riley Hospital for Children, was awarded the William E. Ladd Medal by the American Academy of Pediatrics' surgical section. The award recognizes physicians who have made significant contributions to the field of pediatric surgery.

For more than three decades, Dr. Grosfeld has pioneered pediatric surgical care and medical education in Indiana, the AAP noted in making its award, which was presented Oct. 19 at the organization's annual meeting in Boston.

A specialist in neonatal surgery and pediatric surgical oncology, Dr. Grosfeld is the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* and *Seminars in Pediatric Surgery*, and has written more than six surgery textbooks and hundreds of scientific articles and book chapters.

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## Alzheimer Disease focus of November forum

November is Alzheimer Disease Awareness Month and to that end, the Indiana Alzheimer's Disease Center is sponsoring informative speakers each Monday. The presentations will be in the conference room of the Department of Radiation Oncology in the basement of the Indiana Cancer Pavilion.

All the presentatinos will begin at noon, except the first one, Nov. 4, when Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson will present a proclamation at 11:45 a.m.

Speakers and their titles are:

**Nov. 4** - "The Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center: It's Goals, Mission and Successes" by  
Mary Guerriero Austrom, PhD

**Nov. 11** - "Caring for the Caregiver" by Mary Guerriero Austrom, PhD

**Nov. 18** - "Alzheimer's and Genetics: What is a DNA Bank and Cell Repository?" by Tatiana Foroud, PhD

**Nov. 25** - "The Latest Research and Development in Alzheimer Disease" by  
Martin Farlow, MD

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## Honors

Three IUSM faculty members have been elected to leadership positions with the Central Society for Clinical Research. **Rose Fife**, MD, was elected as the society's secretary treasurer. **David Crabb**, MD, was elected to the organization's governing council, and **Mitchell Goldman**, MD, was elected

as chair of the society's infectious diseases section. Their term of service is 2002-03. They were elected to their positions at the society's recent annual meeting in Chicago.

**Mary Dankoski**, PhD, is the 2002 recipient of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's Dissertation Award for her study, "Affected Regulation and the Cycle of Violence Against Women: New Directions for Understanding the Process." She is a clinical assistant professor of Family Medicine. The dissertation award is given annually to honor outstanding doctoral dissertations in the field of marriage and family therapy.

**James Klaunig**, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, now is a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board. Dr. Klaunig recently was appointed to the board by EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman and will serve on the panel through 2004.

**Julie McGowan**, MLS, PhD, has been elected as a fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics. She is associate dean for information resources and education technology and director of the Ruth Lilly Medical Library. Dr. McGowan will be inducted in November at the Annual Symposium of the AMIA. There are fewer than 150 active fellows in the ACMI and Dr. Gowan's election brings the IUSM representation to four, including Clem McDonald, MD, William Tierney, MD, and Marc Overhage, MD.

**Jason Medler**, a second-year medical student at the Muncie Center for Medical Education, recently placed sixth in his division (20- to 24-year-old males) in the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon. He placed 64th overall with a time of 2:27:08. The winner of the race, Khalid Khannouchi, finished in 2:05:56. The 26.2-mile event was Oct. 13, and the faculty and staff at the Muncie Center say they are very proud of his accomplishment.

**Harikrishna Nakshatri**, PhD, is the recipient of the inaugural Michael K.

Guest Award for Innovative Research from the Walther Cancer Institute. The award is presented to a Walther-affiliated scientist who is involved in innovative science. Dr. Nakshatri's work with the herb *tanacetum parthenium* earned him the award, which is the Institute's largest, single annual award.

**Stephen D. Williams, MD**, has been awarded the Walther Cancer Institute's 2002 Collaborator of the Year Award. The award is given to a scientist or clinician whose efforts encourage collaboration and produce enhanced results. Dr. Williams was recognized for his efforts to develop new therapeutic approaches for ovarian cancer.

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## **IUSM Special Events Calendar online**

A Special Events Calendar for presentations, symposiums, conferences and other activities at IUSM can be found on the School's Web page at [www.medicine.iu.edu](http://www.medicine.iu.edu). The calendar also can be accessed directly at [wwwdb.ucs.indiana.edu/iusm/scripts/calendar](http://wwwdb.ucs.indiana.edu/iusm/scripts/calendar).

To place on item on the calendar, submit it via the form available as a link on the calendar Web site.

The calendar is designed as an informational tool for upcoming events and to help people avoid scheduling events simultaneously that might attract the same audiences.

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## **Scientific Calendar online**

A comprehensive listing on IUSM seminars, lectures and Grand Rounds can be accessed at [www.medlib.iupui.edu/calendar](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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