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A Moment for Patient Safety and Quality Health Care

Fifth in a Series

By Herbert E. Cushing, MD

HEDIS Says: Advise Your Patient to Quit Smoking!

According to the National Committee for Quality Assurance, research shows that people are more likely to quit smoking if they have been advised to do so by their physician. In fact, NCQA estimates that 3 million smokers would quit if 100,000 physicians advised all of their patients who smoke—even if only a small percentage of those patients did so.

Approximately 430,700 Americans die each year from illnesses directly related to smoking so this intervention by physicians would have enormous impact.

Consider that 24 percent of the adult population smokes, accounting for 12 percent of all U.S. medical costs, and that diseases directly caused by, or related to, tobacco smoking include, but are not limited to, cancers of the lung, larynx, oral cavity, pharynx and esophagus, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, coronary artery disease, stroke and other conditions. Also, children of smokers are at risk for birth complications and breathing problems as a result of exposure to smoke.

The financial impact of smoking on the cost of health care in the U.S. was, in 1992, \$72.7 billion. In terms of lost productivity and forfeited earnings, another \$47 billion was lost.

For these reasons, the Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS), indicators used to measure the performance of health plans, includes in its 13 indicators of effectiveness of care the percent of patient/smokers who are advised by their physicians to quit.

For more information, see www.ncqa.org and click on "State of Health Care Quality."

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Gov. O'Bannon visits Evansville Center for Medical Education

Gov. Frank O'Bannon visited the Evansville Center for Medical Education Wednesday, Feb. 5, touring the laboratory of Godfrey Tunnickliff, PhD.

The governor came to the Evansville Center promoting his "Energize

Indiana" initiative, a \$1.25 billion economic development proposal. Increased support for biomedical research and education in the life sciences to develop jobs is part of that proposal. The plan offers the potential for 200,00 jobs for Hoosiers over the next 10 years.

During the lab tour, medical research technician Dave Harrawood showed Gov. O'Bannon a slice of brain tissue and explained how Evansville researchers are looking for binding differences of radioactively labeled gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GBH) in different areas of the brain.

GHB is a substance occurring naturally in the brain and is also a drug of abuse. The research team, which consists of Evansville Center faculty Dr. Tunnicliff, Beat Raess, PhD, and G. S. Seetharamaiah, PhD, has received a \$100,00 grant from the NIH to study GHB's role in the brain. Learning how this substance functions in the brain may help determine why it is such an attractive drug of abuse.

Guiding the governor on the tour of the laboratories, Medical School Library, student computer center and classrooms was Rex Stith, PhD, assistant dean and center director.

The Evansville Center is located in the Health Professions Building on the campus of the University of Southern Indiana. Sixteen students matriculate through each class and more than 20 percent of Evansville Center alumni return to the area to practice medicine. In addition to teaching basic science to first- and second-year medical students, the center conducts basic biomedical research and community outreach.

Jingle Igleheart Hagey, director of development at the Evansville Center, contributed this report.

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Nominations sought for Trustee Teaching Awards

Each year the Trustees of Indiana University recognize excellence in teaching through a program known as the Trustee Teaching Awards. Recipients of this prestigious award receive a stipend, have their names displayed on a plaque and are recognized at award ceremonies at IUSM and at IUPUI.

This year the criterion of excellence in teaching is the primary factor for selection. This year our school will present up to 42 awards to deserving faculty that teach our students, residents, fellows or others throughout our medical school complex.

This year, faculty, students, residents and fellows are invited to help identify the best teachers in the medical school, both at the medical education centers and the Indianapolis campus. Submissions will allow the committee to notify the nominee so that he/she can submit the appropriate documentation. Information on the details of the award, the necessary documentation and the selection process can be [viewed here](#).

Submit the names of nominees to Paula Smith, EdD, at psmith4@iupui.edu by **Friday, Feb. 21**.

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Stem cell debate topic of ethics seminar

“Stem Cells: The state of the debate” will be the focus of a panel discussion at the Wednesday, Feb. 26, Seminars in Medical Ethics and Humanities. The noon to 1 p.m. program is presented by the Medical Humanities Program at IUPUI in conjunction with the IU Center for Bioethics. The program will be

in room 301 of the Ruth Lilly Medical Library.

This discussion will provide an update on the ethical, legal and policy issues related to embryonic stem cell research with members of the IU Center for Bioethics Stem Cell Study Group. Discussion panel members are Meg Gaffney, MD, Sarah Martin, MA, Eric Meslin, PhD, and David Orentlicher, MD, JD.

The event is open to the public, but space is limited. Contact Judi Campbell at 274-4740, or e-mail a message to jizukac@iupui.edu by noon, **Monday, Feb. 24**, to reserve a spot and lunch.

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Pediatric ethics focus of IHEN conference

The Indiana Healthcare Ethics Network's eighth annual conference will be Friday, March 7, at the Ritz Charles, 12156 N. Meridian St., Carmel.

Pediatric ethics will be the focus of the conference and speakers will include Richard Gunderman, MD, PhD, director of pediatric radiology at IUSM; Lainie Ross, MD, PhD, assistant director, MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, University of Chicago; and Matthew Galvin, MD, child adolescent psychiatry at St. Vincent Hospital.

Additional information and online registration is available at <http://cme.medicine.iu.edu/courses/IHEN03.htm>.

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Special molecular biology methods course offered

The Advanced Molecular Biology Methods course/workshop, G910, will be offered this year July 21 through Aug. 8 during Summer Session II. The three-credit course only is offered every other year.

Daylong classes are conducted Monday through Friday during the session. The course is open to students, postdoctoral fellows, staff and faculty members with some basic experience in molecular biology who wish to expand their knowledge to more sophisticated state-of-the-art and latest techniques, as outlined below. The course consists of lectures, hands-on laboratory and informal discussions. Interested parties should contact Anna DePaoli-Roach, PhD, by **Tuesday, April 15**.

2003 Schedule of G910

Week I, July 21-25

- a. Cloning of interacting proteins by Far-Western
- b. Cloning by protein-protein interaction using the two-hybrid system
- c. DNA microarrays
- d. Analyses by real time PCR
- e. Proteomics

Week II, July 28-Aug. 1

- a. Gene expression in mammalian cells, including use of small interference RNA
- b. Protein production in *E. coli*
- c. Protein Expression in *Pichia Pastoris*
- d. Generation of transgenic and knockout mice
- e. Genome-wide phenotypic analyses in yeast

Week III, Aug. 4-8

- a. Gel retardation analysis
- b. Analysis of transcription start site
- c. DNaseI footprinting
- d. *In situ* hybridization
- e. Gene knockdown in zebrafish

Dr. DePaoli-Roach can be contacted at 274-1585, or by e-mail at adepaoli@iupui.edu. Her fax number is 274-4686.

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Proposals sought for educational research grants

Proposals for Educational Research and Development Grants will be accepted until **Tuesday, April 1**. The grants are designed to stimulate faculty innovation in educational research and development. The University of Wisconsin, Madison, has had a similar program that not only improved teaching for students and house staff, but also led to a significant amount of extramural funding in this area. This is the fourth year IUSM has participated in such a program.

Stimulation of educational research and development is particularly timely as we continue to improve our curriculum. We are particularly interested in projects that facilitate interdisciplinary and inter-unit learning for medical students, residents and other health care professionals throughout Indiana. Innovations in medical education that are of particular interest include: web-module development, the use of PDAs in the curriculum, faculty development, the use of standardized patients in the curriculum, teaching and assessing competencies, intersession development, and program evaluation. Average amounts of funded grants have been approximately \$5,000 and no grant request will be considered that exceeds \$10,000.

2003 Educational Research And Development Grants

Objectives

1. Development of innovative pre- and postgraduate curricular programs.
2. Provide pilot projects designed to lead to extramural funding.

The Program

A total of \$50,000 will be made available from IUSM to support innovative projects designed to improve medical education. It is anticipated that grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded this year. Successful applicants will be eligible to apply for a second grant during the next academic year, pending availability of funds and evidence of progress. Faculty who commit 80 percent of their time to medical school activities are eligible to apply, irrespective of their university appointment.

The program is modeled after successful school of medicine programs at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and the University of Washington, Seattle. Details of the Wisconsin program were published in *Academic Medicine* (73:756-761, 1998).

Review Criteria

A broad range of projects will be considered including evaluation of student progress, teaching methods, distance learning, etc. Emphasis will be placed on projects that will help to implement the competency-based curriculum.

The review process will consider:

1. Applicability to required curriculum for pre- and postdoctoral trainees.
2. New replacements to the existing curriculum (not add-ons).
3. System-wide applicability.
4. Potential usefulness for both medical students and house staff.
5. Evaluation of the proposed project.

Applications

The applications must be submitted electronically and contain a title page (form attached) and the following sections: (1) Specific Aims, (2) Significance, (3) Project Plan, (4) Plans for Evaluating the Project, (5) NIH format biographical sketches of the professional personnel involved in the project, (6) Budget, and (6) Letter of support from PI's department chair or center director. Sections 1 through 4 must not exceed four single spaced pages and the one-page budget must be broken down into the categories of salaries, supplies, and equipment. Please note that justification is required for each item on the budget.

Review Process

The executive associate dean for educational affairs will appoint reviewers. Applications should be sent to Dr. Paula Smith, assistant dean for medical education, by e-mail by **Tuesday, April 1**. Her e-mail address is psmith4@iupui.edu.

Progress Reports

An interim progress report will be due six months after the start of the project. A final 12-month progress report will be due within 30 days after the end of the project period, containing the results obtained and a summary of how funds were expended. A poster session/demonstration (open to students and faculty) will be required for all funded projects at the end of 12 months.

Educational Research Assistance

The Dean's Office for Medical Education and Curricular Affairs has experts in medical education research who are willing to assist with the design of your project. They can be reached at 274-4556.

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Revised CMS guidelines now available

Revisions to the Revised Teaching Physician Guidelines, provided by the

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, can be [viewed here](#). In addition to revisions to the guidelines, the document also contains clarifications and answers to frequently asked questions.

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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 under the Quick Links menu. The calendar also can be accessed directly at 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. 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 multidisciplinary 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>

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

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