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A Moment for Patient Safety and Quality Health Care

Sixth in a Series

By Herbert E. Cushing, MD

Effective care includes beta-blocker therapy after heart attack

An estimated 7.5 million Americans over the age of 20 have a history of myocardial infarction. As the single greatest killer of both men and women in this country, MI often strikes when individuals are in the most productive years of their lives.

Studies have demonstrated that the use of beta-blockers following an acute MI increases the probability of long-term survival by up to 40 percent. This

therapy has yielded especially positive results among diabetic patients who suffer MI.

The financial impact of such benefits is considerable; a study estimated that providing long-term beta-blocker treatment to all MI survivors would result in a net savings of \$18 million in direct and indirect costs over 20 years.

Given the impact of this therapy on length and quality of life, as well as its economic impact, the use of beta-blockers following MI has been included as one of the 13 effectiveness-of-care indicators in the Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) used to measure the performance of health plans.

For more information, see

www.ncqa.org/sohc2002/SOHC_2002_BBH.html.

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Wishard Telethon 2003 a success

The Wishard Telethon 2003 raised \$195,641 for the IU/Wishard Trauma Center, Emergency Department, the IU Burn Center at Wishard and the Wishard Ambulance Service.

The second annual telethon was Sunday, March 2, and was broadcast on WTTV Channel 4.

"The event was a success only because of the large number of volunteers who generously donated their time in various capacities including pre-telethon activities, the Employee Activities Committee, the Galyan's remote broadcasting location, WTTV and in so many other ways," said Michelle O'Keefe, executive director of the telethon.

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Doctor's Day helps kids learn about the profession

Hundreds of Indiana children have a better idea on the importance of exercise and various other aspects of how to stay healthy after Saturday's Doctor's Day at the Indianapolis Children's Museum.

Doctor's Day is a cooperative venture among IUSM, Clarian Health Partners, other area hospitals, the Indianapolis Medical Alliance and the Children's Museum. Children are provided with the opportunity to learn about health care issues and the duties and jobs of medical professionals.

Many IUSM students delayed the start of their spring break to assist with the event. Medical students will be staffing booths organized by the Family Medicine Student Interest Group, the IU Family Practice Residency Group, the Pediatric Student Interest Group and the Community Education and Child Advocacy Group.

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David Orentlicher to be guest of AAUP

The IUPUI chapter of American Association of University Professors will host a meeting with state Rep. David Orentlicher, JD, MD, a faculty member in the IU Schools of Law and Medicine. He was elected to his first term in the state legislature this past November.

Rep. Orentlicher will report on the current legislative session and listen to issues of concern to members of the IUPUI community at 2 p.m., Friday, March 28. The session will be in room 1126, University Library.

All members of the IUPUI campus community are invited.

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AAMC grants and awards seeking applicants

Each year the Association of American Medical Colleges presents major awards honoring individuals and programs that make significant contributions in the fields of medical education, research and community service.

Specific information about each award and their respective nomination requirements is available at www.aamc.org/about/awards/start.htm.

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This week on *Sound Medicine*

Tune in at noon, Saturday, March 15, to *Sound Medicine*, the weekly radio program co-produced by IUSM and WFYI Public Radio (90.1 FM) in Indianapolis. This week's faculty host is Kathy Miller, MD.

This week Michael Vasko, PhD, chairman of the IU Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, will discuss pain pathways in the brain and new methods of pain control. Adding insight on how to get a brighter smile will be Greg Raymond, DDS, who will provide the scoop on everything from drug store pastes to veneers applied by dentists. Dr. Raymond is in private practice in Carmel and Franklin.

Archived editions of *Sound Medicine*, as well as other helpful health information, can be found at soundmedicine.iu.edu/.

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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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