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[IUSM Home](#) • [Office of Public & Media Relations](#) • [Scope Archives](#)

- [IUSM biochemist develops marketed cancer drug](#)
 - [Bioethics center has new home](#)
 - [Spring break trip to Nicaragua seeks physician](#)
 - [Diabetes topic of women's health lecture Jan. 27](#)
 - [Clinical Trials Program teleconference on informed consent – Jan. 30](#)
 - [Geriatrics Conferences February schedule](#)
 - [IUPUI Staff Council contact information](#)
 - [Office for Professional Development offers grant information](#)
 - [Prostate cancer pilot project proposals requested](#)
 - [Applicants needed for 2004 Summer Research Program](#)
 - [Honors](#)
 - [This week on *Sound Medicine*](#)
 - [IUSM Special Events Calendar online](#)
 - [Submissions to SCOPE](#)
-

IUSM biochemist develops marketed cancer drug

Roger Roeske, PhD, had no idea he would be the father of a drug for prostate cancer when he began his research on contraception nearly 30 years ago.

The drug, Plenaxis™ received FDA approval for the treatment of prostate cancer Nov. 25 and is to be on the market early this year.

Dr. Roeske, a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, will go down in IU history as the first faculty researcher to discover the makings for a drug that made it to market. In the world of pharmaceutical research, that is a unique accomplishment. Praecis Pharmaceuticals Inc., the manufacturer of Plenaxis, holds the exclusive license for some of the compounds developed by Dr. Roeske.

Dr. Roeske's National Institutes of Health-funded research was directed at finding a more effective contraceptive agent. The compounds developed in his laboratory successfully blocked hormones involved in conception but the side effects were severe.

Through the initial research by other scientists, hormones were isolated that signaled the pituitary gland, which, among other things, regulates sperm formation. Those hormones led Dr. Roeske to develop the compound that serves as the basis of abarelix, the generic name for Plenaxis.

Abarelix is a gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) antagonist and blocks the body's ability to produce testosterone, the hormone that enables most prostate cancers to grow. By blocking testosterone production, fewer cancer cells are formed, minimizing the amount of disease and enabling therapeutic agents to be more effective.

IUSM participated in two of the clinical trials sponsored by Praecis Pharmaceuticals. Michael Koch, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Urology, says Plenaxis may soon replace many of the other prostate cancer drugs on the market because it offers patients benefits that others do not.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Bioethics center has new home

The Indiana Center for Bioethics has moved to 714 N. Senate, Ste. EF 200, Indianapolis, IN 46202. The campus mail address is EF 200.

The telephone number for the center has changed to 278-4034 and the fax number is 278-4050. The Web site address remains www.bioethics.iu.edu.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Spring break trip to Nicaragua seeks physician

A spring break program in Nicaragua for IUSM students is in need of an accompanying physician. The first- and second-year medical students will staff a clinic in the costal town of Puerta Cabezas, as well as perform various service projects around the community. The dates for the trip are March 14-21.

Interested parties may email James Smith, MS 2, at jlsmith1@iupui.edu or Philip Williams, MS 2, at jppwilli@iupui.edu.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Diabetes topic of women's health lecture Jan. 27

The IU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health January lecture will feature Sue Kirkman, MD, associate professor of medicine, discussing "Diabetes" from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, in the IU Cancer Research Institute auditorium.

Lunch and CME credits will be provided. No reservations are necessary.

The presentation also can be viewed live at http://video.indiana.edu:8080/ramgen/encoder/vic/womens_health_20040127.rm or seen at a later date at

http://video.indiana.edu:8080/ramgen/vic/womens_health_20040127.rm.

The CoE monthly lecture series is made possible by an unrestricted educational grant from Merck.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Clinical Trials Program teleconference on informed consent – Jan. 30

The Clinical Trials Program is promoting a teleconference on informed consent for research nurses and others involved in clinical research projects.

What: Teleconference from the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) On Informed Consent

Speaker: Lisa Golac, RRT, BSc, MHSM, Toronto, Canada

When: Jan. 30 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Tudor Auditorium, Wishard Memorial Hospital, OPW fifth Floor (“U” elevators off of the 10th Street Outpatient Surgery entrance)

The teleconference will be of particular interest to anyone responsible for the consenting process in research clinical trials. The teleconference offers 1.5 hours contact hours free to ACRP members and \$25 for non-ACRP members upon completion and submission of evaluation form).

Additional information is available from the Office of Clinical Research Support at 278-8210, or at www.acrpn.net.org/education/audio/audio013004.html.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Geriatrics Conferences February schedule

The IU Geriatrics Conferences for February will be from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in Wishard Memorial Hospital, room T2008 A & B. Topics and speakers are:

Feb. 4: “Spinal Disorders in the Elderly”
Steven C. Chang, MD
Associate professor of orthopaedic surgery

Feb. 18: “Sleep Disorders in Older Adults”
Brian Foresman, D.O., FCCP
Clinical associate professor of medicine
Medical director, Center for Sleep Disorders

[BACK TO TOP](#)

IUPUI Staff Council contact information

The IUPUI Staff Council serves and represents campus staff. Input from staff members is always welcome.

Individuals with projects or concerns can send their information to the council by email to scouncil@iupui.edu; by campus mail to UN 403; or by calling 274-2215.

Monthly meetings are open to all staff members. The new meeting location is Inlow Hall, room 100.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Office for Professional Development offers grant information

The next Office for Professional Development internal grant deadline is

Monday, March 15. There is not a Feb. 1 deadline for grants and some past grant opportunities are not being offered this fiscal year. The current 2003-2004 OPD grant programs are:

Grant-in-Aid for Special Populations

Grant-in-Aid for Academic Staff Development:

Grant-in-Aid for Associate Faculty and Lecturer Development

Grant-in-Aid for Minority Faculty Development

Grant-in-Aid for Women Faculty Development

General Grant-in-Aid

Grant-in-Aid for Research

Grant-in-Aid for Teaching

Grant-in-Aid for Service

Special Focus (Gateway Course Grant)

Project areas include:

- Best Practices Team Planning and Travel
- Civic Engagement/Integration of Community Resources
- Development
- Dissemination
- Gateway and Beyond
- Inquiry
- Integrator
- Student Learning Measurement

To access the project descriptions and new guidelines, visit the OPD grants Website at <http://opd.iupui.edu/grants/guidelines.htm>. Applications submitted under the old or discontinued guidelines will not be eligible for review. Questions can be directed to Etta Ward, acting director, Scholarly and Creative Activities Program, at emward@iupui.edu, or 278-8427.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Prostate cancer pilot project proposals requested

The Central Indiana Prostate Cancer Foundation, in conjunction with the Indiana University Cancer Center, invites pilot proposals for prostate cancer research projects. Funding is scheduled to begin on April 1.

A primary goal of the CIPCF is to stimulate multi-disciplinary and translational research that will decrease the incidence and adverse impact of prostate cancer. Translational research seeks to develop and bring laboratory observations to innovative clinical trials. Applications from all relevant disciplines are welcome.

The duration of funding is one year and the budget should not exceed \$20,000. Applicants must be affiliated with IU and the funds should not be used for fellowship or training purposes. Applicants may have received prior or current extramural research funding, but the proposed project should be separate from previous/current funded projects.

The proposal must target prostate cancer. Preference will be given to those proposals that involve translational research and may lead to extramural funding applications.

Final applications are due by **Friday, Feb. 13.**

The body of the proposal should not exceed three pages. A budget should be included and address the usual categories of personnel, supplies and equipment (which must be justified). A lay description is required on a separate page and will be reviewed by members of the Central Indiana Prostate Cancer Foundation. Ten copies are required. Applications will be reviewed by an internal committee.

Criteria for review are:

1. Scientific merit

2. Prostate cancer relatedness
3. Multidisciplinary and translational nature
4. Potential for subsequent peer reviewed funding

Applications should be sent to Elizabeth Parsons, IU Cancer Center, 535 Barnhill Dr., Room 455, Indianapolis, IN 46202. For additional information, call 278-0078.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Applicants needed for 2004 Summer Research Program

The IU Cancer Center is accepting applications for a summer internship for high school and undergraduate students pursuing biomedical or behavioral science careers.

The IU Cancer Center Summer Research Program provides a hands-on research opportunity for students to work with a mentor for nine weeks during the summer. Mentors are IU faculty affiliated with the Cancer Center. Participant selection is based on interest in biomedical or behavioral science, grades and personal interviews.

High school students applying must have completed at least their junior year and have maintained a grade point average of at least 3.0. Undergraduates applying for the program must have completed 24 hours of college credit, be majoring in a biomedical or behavioral science and have maintained a grade point average of 3.2.

Information about the program and applications are available through the center's Web site at <http://iucc.iu.edu/srp/>. The deadline for submitting applications is **Monday, March 1**. Applicants will be notified by April 1. The summer program runs June 7 through Aug. 6.

For additional information, contact Gwendolyn Johnson, Ph.D., program administrator, IU Cancer Center, at iuccsrp@iupui.edu.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Honors

Elaine Cox, MD, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics in the Section of Pediatric Infectious Disease, has recently been certified by the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM). The HIV Credentialing Examination was offered for the first time and Dr. Cox is one of six physicians in Indiana and the only pediatrician in Indiana to have completed all of the requirements for credentialing and to pass the certification examination. She is recognized for her expertise in the prevention and management of HIV and she was instrumental in the passage of the law in Indiana last year resulting in the routine testing of pregnant women for HIV.

The American Society of Clinical Oncology has honored **Larry Einhorn**, MD, with a Service Award for Scientific Achievement. Dr. Einhorn, a distinguished professor, was presented with one of ASCO's annual Special Awards, given to leaders in the field of oncology who have made significant impacts toward improving the quality of cancer care.

Michael Koch, MD, professor and chairman of urology, has been named a trustee of the American Board of Urology. The six-year appointment became effective this past August. The 12 trustees are responsible for the certification of urologists in United States and its primary purpose is to insure the quality and integrity of the specialty. Trustees also oversee the examination process to become board certified and to maintain that certification.

Daniel Meldrum, MD, assistant professor of surgery and of cellular and integrative physiology, and director of the ICVBM Cardiovascular Physiology Core, has received a three-year appointment to the editorial board of the *Journal*

of Surgical Research, the official publication of the Association for Academic Surgery.

Ginat Wintermeyer Mirowski, DMD, MD, associate professor of dermatology and oral medicine, has been named assistant editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. Her two-year appointment began Jan. 1.

Subah Packer, PhD, associate professor of cellular and integrative physiology, has been honored for her "dedication and commitment of service to the Project SEED program" by the Council Committee on Project SEED. She was honored at the 35th anniversary of Project SEED symposium at the American Chemical Society Fall National Meeting in September. Project SEED encourages economically disadvantaged high school students to pursue career opportunities in the chemical sciences and provides a hands-on summer research opportunity under the guidance of a scientist. Dr. Packer has been a student mentor since 1995.

Arun Srivastava, PhD, professor of microbiology and immunology, has been reappointed to the editorial board of *Virology* for a three-year term. The international journal reports on the fields of virology and gene therapy.

William Tierney, MD, professor of medicine, has been named editor of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. His five-year appointment begins in July. The journal is ranked 12th among all general medicine journals and is the only journal dedicated to academic general internists and covers clinical care, teaching, and research. .

[BACK TO TOP](#)

This week on *Sound Medicine*

Tune in at noon, Saturday, Jan. 31, to *Sound Medicine*, the weekly radio program co-produced by IUSM and WFYI Public Radio (90.1 FM) in

Indianapolis. The program is hosted by Barb Lewis. This week's co-host is David Crabb, MD.

Guests include Sherwin Nuland, MD, a Yale University faculty member and author of "The Doctor's Plague: Germs, Childbed Fever and the Strange Story of Ignac Semmelweis." Also on the show will be IUSM pediatrician James Conway, MD, who will discuss how the flu affects children and tips for caring for a child with the flu.

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

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Online IUSM calendars

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.

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. The calendar also can be accessed directly at webdb.iu.edu/iusm/scripts/calendar/instr.cfm.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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 278-8722
- e-mail the information to mhardin@iupui.edu
- mail the information to Mary Hardin, Z-7, Ste. 306, 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.

To keep the electronic version of *Scope* as streamlined as possible, only seminars and lectures of general or multidisciplinary interest will be included.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

[IUSM Home](#) • [Office of Public & Media Relations](#) • [Scope Archives](#)
