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Simons commit \$50 million to IU Cancer Center

Shopping-mall developer Melvin Simon and his wife, Bren Simon, of Indianapolis, have committed their largest charitable gift – an extraordinary \$50 million – to the Indiana University Cancer Center to support both cancer research and patient-care initiatives.

The cancer center research program and patient-care facilities will be named the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center.

One half of the \$50 million gift will be used to create a tribute to their late son, the Joshua Max Simon Research Endowment, which will recruit and retain internationally accomplished researchers to IUSM and support the school's laboratory research programs at the cancer center. Joshua Max Simon died at the age of 25 in 1999 of cardiac arrest.

The other half of the gift will fund the expansion of the cancer center's patient-care facility, a collaboration between IUSM and Clarian Health.

"Extraordinary cancer research and patient care has been a hallmark of Indiana University over the past 40 years," said IUSM Dean Craig Brater, MD, vice president for life sciences at IU. "We deeply appreciate the trust and leadership of Melvin and Bren Simon in their support of the IU Cancer Center's mission to eliminate the devastation of cancer here in Indiana and worldwide. This transformative gift will give us the resources to attract and retain the talented faculty so critical to saving lives. This truly is the Indiana Life Sciences Initiative in action."

For the complete story, see the IU news release at www.medicine.indiana.edu/news_releases/viewRelease.php4?art=590 or the Indianapolis Star's story at www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2006611210430.

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Life sciences, pandemic planning to be discussed at Fall Faculty Meeting

“Planning the Future: Life Sciences and the Clinical Enterprise” will be presented by IUSM Dean Craig Brater, MD, at the Fall Faculty Meeting from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, in the Emerson Hall auditorium.

Also on the agenda is a discussion of the pandemic influenza preparedness plan. Discussion will include:

- “Overview of the Plan” – Michael Olinger, MD;
- “Patient Care Teams” – David Crabb, MD;
- “Educational Response” – Stephen Wintermeyer, MD, MPH;
- “Ethical Response” – Eric Meslin, PhD

Faculty President Simon Atkinson, PhD, will preside.

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M&M: Mindfulness in Medicine

Two Nights Before Christmas

The response to the story below was prepared by Adam D. Will, MS 2, with input and support from the statewide Professionalism Competency Team.

An observer reported:

I was sitting in the detention unit of the Wishard Emergency Room wrapping up some details of an ER consultation when the guards buzzed in a faculty physician. Dr. Sharp (a pseudonym), stormed up to the guard’s desk and said in a demanding voice, “Where is Roy Sisson (also a pseudonym)?” Dr. Sharp was then directed to the back stretcher where the patient was sitting. She stomped up to the patient and without any introduction whatsoever yelled in an accusing way, “Are you proud of yourself? Huh? Are you?” Her unusually loud tone of voice made most of us in the small unit look up to see what was going on.

After confronting the patient, Dr. Sharp returned to the guard’s desk and said in an equally loud and accusing tone, “You can’t let this happen again. Let them know at the prison that he needs much more supervision because this cannot happen again.” Dr. Sharp then stormed out of the unit, leaving everyone, including me, speechless.

Approaching the guard sitting closest to me, I asked timidly, “What was that all about?”

“Roy over there,” motioning to the patient, “swallowed another razor blade. It’s the second time he’s done it this week. He’s here to have it removed.”

“‘Tis the season to be jolly, huh?” I thought as everyone within earshot of the explosive interaction fell silent -- a different sort of “Silent Night” just two nights before Christmas.

Response: A Student’s Reflection

At first blush, this outburst seems quite inappropriate and totally unprofessional, and I’d like to think

that students should recognize that... but would they? Learners have a tendency to affirm any and all actions of a teacher as somehow being correct, and that affirmation can come from astonishingly superficial benchmarks. On the popular television show “Scrubs,” for example, Dr. Cox is a tough-love kind of physician who holds that while some patients need to have their hands held through difficult times, other patients need nothing less than a solid kick in the chops. Alternatively, Dr. Sharp’s outburst could be accepted as appropriate without any reflection whatsoever on the part of a learner simply because it came from a teacher. After all, the reason our teachers are teachers is because they are perceived to be authorities in the subject they teach, so they must be right. Right?

The core question for me, however, might be: Is it ever really okay for a physician to yell in anger at a patient in public?

Primum non nocere

When we put on our white coats (long and short alike), we assume a role within the profession of medicine. Within the traditions of that profession, two ethical principles – beneficence and not maleficence – would compel us to ask two questions: 1) Is there any evidence that yelling at a patient in public provides any therapeutic benefit? and 2) Even if a therapeutic benefit is possible, does the action also harm?

It seems to me that Dr. Sharp’s outburst was little more than an attempt to admonish the patient – to invoke shame and remorse through public humiliation. Humiliation seems unlikely to have had any therapeutic benefit. If anything, it left the patient feeling vulnerable and abused and certainly did harm to this physician-patient relationship. Furthermore, the admonishment was not limited to the patient but also extended to staff involved in Mr. Sisson’s care in prison– a discourtesy to them that created collateral damage. Removing a razor blade is not easy work and to have to do it twice in one week would try the patience of Job. However, Dr. Sharp’s anger, however, seems out of proportion to the situation, and the harm she did seems out of proportion to any potential benefit.

Cura te ipsum

Is it possible that both Dr. Sharp and Mr. Sisson were caught in a situation and a systems interaction that made this clash understandable and forgivable? Probably not. If this outburst was the result of frustration with a dehumanizing health-care (or penal) system, it still should not have been directed at a person who is himself relatively powerless in the situation. However ‘victimized’ Dr. Sharp feels in her situation, she has more choices and resources than Mr. Sisson. If her frustration takes the form of an outburst, perhaps we have ignored for too long one of the principles of medical ethics that is too easily lost among others – and among our daily toils. We must take care of ourselves to take care of our patients. We must heal ourselves to heal others. Our frustrations with the system, with our lives, and with each other should never come before our patients’ needs.

Witnessing and the duty to intervene

Does a student who observes unprofessional or potentially harmful actions of another have a duty to intervene in any way? It depends. While the ethical obligation to act on behalf of the patient is clear, the fact is that we often feel that our actions take place in learning environments that are not entirely trustworthy or safe from reprisals if we speak up. Under such conditions we must make the difficult choice of speaking up to protect the patient or remaining silent to protect ourselves. Fortunately at our medical school, the ethical obligation to intervene and protect the patient is itself protected by the Teacher Learner Advocacy Committee (TLAC), whose charge is to do fact-finding and redress unsafe learning situations should they arise.

Students are placed daily into situations in which they must make difficult decisions about coming forward with what they see and hear at the bedside. In aviation, many accidents have been avoided by instituting anonymous reporting systems which do not involve reprisals but rather seek root causes of

errors and mistakes that can be fatal. This system has worked well in the aviation context. Similarly, the TLAC and other venues, such as electronic journaling and small group discussion about professionalism during the medicine rotation, are steps in the right direction. Creating a culture of professionalism will take efforts from all sides, students and faculty alike.

M&M: Mindfulness in Medicine is an editorial collaboration among the Teacher-Learner Advocacy Committee, the Relationship-Centered Care Initiative and the Office for Medical Education and Curricular Affairs. Each column features true stories, letters, poetry or art from members of the IUSM campus community. Comments, questions, submissions or ideas for columns may be sent to meca@iupui.edu.

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Mark your calendar for annual Richter Conference in Child Psychiatry

"Making Treatment Work: Concepts in Anxiety Disorders in Children and Adolescents" is the theme of the 30th annual Arthur B. Richter Conference in Child Psychiatry, which will be Friday, March 2.

The Visiting Richter Professor is Philip C. Kendall, PhD, the creator of the "Coping Cat" manualized treatment method for anxiety disorder. He will speak at a dinner lecture March 1 and the following day at the conference at the Ritz Charles in Carmel. IUSM faculty Kelda Walsh, MD, and Andrew Goddard, MD, will present with Dr. Kendall at the full-day lecture.

CME and CE-Psychology credit will be offered for this conference on both Thursday and Friday. Brochures will be mailed in January. For additional information and updates about this conference, visit www.iupui.edu/~psycdept/cme.htm, or call 278-5838.

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Adult learning disabilities topic of CoE lecture

William Kronenberger, PhD, associate professor and director of the Section of Psychology at IUSM, will discuss learning disabilities and related challenges for adults at the Tuesday, Nov. 28, Women's Health Noon Lecture. The series is presented by the IU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health and is from noon to 1 p.m.

The lecture will be in the IU Cancer Research Institute auditorium and lunch is provided. The lecture also can be viewed by webcast at video.indiana.edu:8080/ramgen/encoder/womens_health.rm.

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Mini Medical School continues Nov. 29

The second in the series of Mini Medical School sessions will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, at the Clarian North Medical Center, 116 th and Meridian Streets. Speaking will be George Sledge, MD, and Todd Skaar, PhD, presenting "Get Personal! Individualized Cancer Therapies."

Seating is limited and open to the first 80 participants. The fee is \$10 per session or \$32 for the four-week program. Register online at www.alumni.iupui.edu/medicine.

Other sessions will be:

- **Dec. 6** -- Your Shin Bone's Connected to Your... Replacing Joints: New Medicines/New Therapies
Steve Tripple, MD, and J. Andrew Parr, MD
- **Dec. 13** -- Hey, Sugar! Get Control of Youth and Adult Diabetes
Henry Rodriquez, MD, and Linda DiMeglio, MD

The event includes free parking, refreshments, participant materials and presentations by IUSM faculty. Mini Medical School is a public event sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company, IU Medical Group, and the IUSM Faculty Community Relations Committee.

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ANGEL demonstrations offered

The IUSM Medical Library will sponsor a learning/information session on the ANGEL (A New Global Environment for Learning) course management system from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, in the Medical Library Towers.

ANGEL team members will answer questions, provide help and offer training to faculty, staff and students interested in using ANGEL as a support tool. ANGEL's newest product "e-Portfolio" is a program that enables students to integrate classroom, curricular, life, and work experiences and create a web presence. No reservations are required for this walk-in event.

For more information, contact Kellie Kaneshiro at 274-1612, or kkaneshi@iupui.edu.

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Islam topic of Fairbanks Ethics Lecture Nov. 29

"Teachings of Islam in Health Care Ethics" will be discussed by Shahid Athar, MD, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, in Petticrew Auditorium at Methodist Hospital. His presentation is one of the Fairbanks Ethics Lecture Series.

The final presentation in the fall series will be an ethics town hall meeting with Paul Helft, MD, and the Charles Warren Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics faculty affiliates. It will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, in Petticrew Auditorium.

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Continuing Medical Education at your fingertips

Online registration and a list of grand rounds, conferences and courses are available on the Continuing Medical Education website at cme.medicine.iu.edu.

Scientific Calendar online

A comprehensive listing on IUSM seminars, lectures and Grand Rounds can be accessed at [the new Scientific Calendar website](#). To place items on the Scientific Calendar, please forward them to Iona Sewell at imsewell@iupui.edu.

To access calendars and information prior to 2003, visit the old site [at www.medlib.iupui.edu/calendar](http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/calendar).

Scope submission guidelines

Scope wants your news items.

The deadline for submission is 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays. *Scope* is published electronically and sent to faculty, staff, students, and residents.

There are three easy ways to submit story ideas or information to *Scope*:

- e-mail the information to mhardin@iupui.edu
- mail the information to Mary Hardin, Z-7, Ste. 306, IUPUI
- fax your information to (317) 278-8722

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

In the interest of accuracy, please do NOT use:

- acronyms
- abbreviations
- campus building codes (use full, proper name of building and include the room number)
- Dr. as a preface before names (designate MD or PhD)

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