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CTSI launches new portal for research volunteers, redesigns main webpage

March 8, 2011

The Indiana CTSI has launched two online projects that will serve as important tools in the ongoing mission to accelerate translational research across the state of Indiana.

Clinical trial registry

INresearch.org, a new research volunteer registry created by the Indiana CTSI, will connect the community to cutting-edge medical research at Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame with a click of a button. Anyone who signs up online will be eligible to participate in clinical trials at these three institutions across the state, including the IU School of Medicine and IU Health hospital system.

"Participating in a research study offers hope to patients through the invaluable information it provides to doctors and scientists working to transform promising new medical discoveries into a wider reality," said Anantha Shekhar, MD, PhD, director of the Indiana CTSI and a practicing psychiatrist. "Working with patients with chronic disabling mental conditions—where we don't fully understand the causes and for which we have few successful treatments—I understand the urgency for more research."

INresearch registrants are given the opportunity to create and manage an online health profile. Volunteers whose health information matches a specific study may be invited by a doctor or project coordinator to participate in a research study. Participation may include answering a survey; participating in interviews; undergoing a physical, including providing a blood or urine sample; or trying a new treatment or medication.

A serious barrier to new treatments for cancer, heart disease, depression and many other life threatening diseases is simply finding people most likely to benefit by trying out a new drug or discovery. INResearch connects doctors to pioneering patients and volunteers whose participation in a clinical trial may ultimately accelerate access to new and better medical treatment in Indiana and beyond.

"I've been very fortunate to participate in clinical trials," said Fred Kocher, a multiple myeloma patient from Hendricks County who's participated in two research studies since 2001. "I feel like I'm part of the advancement of medical science," he said, noting his own treatment, which has effectively prevented his conditions from worsening over the past decade, owes its success to those who've pioneered the way.

"I think that if I received my diagnosis today, I would feel much more confident about the future than I had at the time," he said. "I'm a true beneficiary of all the great work that's come before me."

In addition to community members, faculty, staff, students are encouraged to join, and physicians to ask their patients to sign up. INResearch is open to everyone, including healthy volunteers and patients looking to be considered for studies focused on specific health conditions.

Volunteers may choose what studies best fits their needs and reserve the right to withdraw at any time. Registration does not



INResearch clinical trial participant registry



The New Indiana CTSI HUB

automatically enroll individuals in research study. Volunteers may also explore available research studies prior to registering at www.indianactsi.org/clinicaltrial.

Other CTSA-funded institutions have already established similar projects, including the University of Michigan, Washington University, Ohio State University and Vanderbilt University, whose multi-institute project, "ResearchMatch," has registered nearly 14,000 research volunteers throughout the nation.

To learn more or to register, visit INresearch.org.

New Indiana CTSI HUB

The Indiana CTSI HUB, the web site for the Indiana CTSI, has been given the most extensive overhaul since the Institute was established by a Clinical and Translational Sciences Award from the NIH in 2008.

"The new Indiana CTSI HUB is a major step forward in appearance and usability," said William Barnett, director of information infrastructures for the Indiana CTSI and senior manager for the life sciences at IU. "I hope everyone will try out our new HUB and let us know how they like it."

The Indiana CTSI HUB is an important component of the Indiana CTSI mission to accelerate the translation of health care in Indiana and serves as a focal point for information about [CTSI programs](#); [funding opportunities](#); [grants management](#); [clinical trial listings](#); [service core](#) and [project development requests](#); [online tool access](#); and [internal communications](#), including [events](#), [announcements](#) and [news](#).

In addition to the design overhaul, the new Indiana CTSI HUB includes an [improved login system](#) and more fully integrated web pages for key Indiana CTSI programs, including the [Community Health Engagement Program](#), [Project Development Teams](#), [Clinical Research Center](#), and [Service Cores](#).

The new site also introduces a [News Center](#) and a new navigational concept designed to guide new visitors to programs and services most relevant to [who they are](#) or [what they require](#). The original navigation scheme has been relocated to the sidebar for visitors familiar with the previous layout.

To explore the new Indiana CTSI HUB, visit www.indianactsi.org. To offer comments or feedback, see www.indianactsi.org/feedback/suggestions.

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Researchers establish Center for Urban Health with support from CTSI, IUPUI

March 8, 2011

Although industrial development may have fueled Indianapolis' growth throughout the previous century, the city's pollution-heavy history also left a harmful environmental legacy. Now research by two IUPUI faculty could help Hoosiers protect against the worst health effects of this messy inheritance.

Gabriel Filippelli, PhD, professor and chair of earth sciences at IUPUI and previously an oceanographer from California, says a desire to explore local issues prompted him to "dig into" urban soil contamination after relocating to the Midwest.

Using data from a graduate student thesis, a preliminary investigation suggested a connection between soil lead levels and childhood lead poisoning. But more precise medical data was needed to confirm the theory.

After establishing a collaboration with Sarah Wiehe, MD, MPH, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the IU School of Medicine involved in urban health studies, Filippelli applied for assistance from the Indiana CTSI [Project Development Team Program](#). This program brings together subject experts from Indiana, Purdue and Notre Dame universities to provide investigators planning expertise; regulatory knowledge; and access to clinical data, laboratory equipment and technology; and funding.

With \$18,000 from the Indiana CTSI, Filippelli obtained more than 16,000 data points from local children tested for lead poisoning from 1999 to 2008, including not only their test results but also information on race, sex, age, socio-economic status and—most importantly—addresses. Database access, as well as data mining services, came from the Regenstrief Institute, an Indiana CTSI partner.

Geolocating the information confirmed that low-income children in residences near the city's formerly industrial center were also those who experienced significantly higher blood lead poisoning rates.

Confirming a connection between lead in soil and lead in blood is the first step in reducing exposures, says Filippelli. The results reveal multiple pathways for lead to soil and children, including not just former industrial emissions but also the legacy of lead used in leaded gasoline and in lead-based paint.

In April 2010, he and Wiehe applied to the IUPUI Signature Center Program using the collaboration model that developed from the CTSI-supported project. In July, they received a three-year \$300,000 to create the IUPUI Center for Urban Health.

The center will focus on environment, community and health, they say. The goal is to enhance health and sustainability for urban populations, with an eye toward both environmental legacies and emerging threats.

Other founding center members include Daniel Johnson, PhD, assistant professor of geography, IUPUI, and Terrell Zollinger, DrPH, professor of public health, IUSM.



Gabe Filippelli, PhD



Sarah Wiehe, MD, MPH

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Applications sought for core pilot and core equipment grants

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) is accepting applications for its Core Equipment Funding and Core Pilot Funding programs.

The Core Equipment Funding Program offers up to \$100,000 for the purchase of equipment that will enhance the research environment and contribute to the research mission of IUSM and the Indiana CTSI. Proposals requesting \$5,000 to \$100,000 will be considered. Proposals for equipment costing more than \$100,000 will be considered if matching funds to cover the balance are identified. Application deadline is **Wednesday, March 30**.

The Core Pilot Funding Program promotes the use of the technologies and expertise afforded by the Indiana CTSI Core Facilities, with the specific goal of funding projects with outstanding scientific merit that can be linked to generating extramural funding or novel intellectual property. The program will provide up to \$10,000 in core services. Application deadline is **5 p.m. Monday, April 11**.

For more information, including program guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit indianactsi.org/grants, log in using an institutional ID and password, and select a grant opportunity.

Questions to Lilith Reeves, chief scientific officer, at ictsi@iupui.edu.

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Teaching Skills in International Research Ethics (TaSkR)

The IU Center for Bioethics and the IU-Moi University Academic Research Ethics Partnership will host its annual **Teaching Skills in International Research Ethics (TaSkR)** workshop on April 12-14, 2011, in the Health Information and Translational Sciences (HITS) Building, room 1110.

This workshop will focus primarily on the ethics of research involving human subjects—both behavioral and biomedical—conducted in an international forum, as well as developing stronger pedagogical skills.

Attendance is free. For more information or to register, contact Kalli D. McBride, JD, at kdmcbri@iupui.edu.

The IU Center for Bioethics supports the [Indiana CTSI Bioethics and Subject Advocacy Program](#).

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NCRR Director to deliver keynote at third annual Indiana CTSI meeting

March 8, 2011

The third annual meeting of the Indiana CTSI will be **Monday, April 25**, at the University Place Conference Center and Hotel, 850 W. Michigan St., Indianapolis. The keynote speaker will be Barbara Alving, MD, director of the [National Center for Research Resources](#), NIH.

The theme of this year's meeting is "Enhancing Health Care and Research Through Public-Private Partnerships." Additional guest speakers will include Andrew Schafer, MD, chairman of medicine at [Weill Cornell Medical College](#), and Jan Lundberg, PhD, president of [Lilly Research Laboratories](#), as well as internal updates from the [New Wishard Hospital, IU Health](#), and the recently established [Indiana Institute for Personalized Medicine](#). Also scheduled are breakout sessions and a poster session.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. To register, visit www.indianactsi.org/workshops/ctsiann2011/apply.

Questions to Samantha Scahill at sscahill@iupui.edu.



Barbara Alving, MD, director, NCRR, NIH

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