



Weekly news for faculty, staff and students from
the **Indiana University School of Medicine**

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9/10/2014

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9/12/2014

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[View more events »](#)

Research News

IU Simon Cancer Center joins new National Clinical Trials Network

The IU Simon Cancer Center has been **selected as one of only 30 sites in the country** to lead cancer clinical trials in a new national network.

The National Cancer Institute designated the IU Simon Cancer Center as a Lead Academic Participating Site in its new National Clinical Trials Network. The network, which focuses on phase III clinical trials, is designed to improve the speed and efficiency of the design, launch and conduct of clinical trials; make optimal use of

scientific innovations; improve selection, prioritization, support and completion of clinical trials; and foster expanded participation of both patients and physicians.

Lead sites will provide scientific leadership in the development and conduct of clinical trials.

The IU Simon Cancer Center was chosen as a lead site because of its demonstrated ability to enroll high numbers of patients onto trials as well as scientific leadership in the design and conduct of clinical trials. IU investigators have led trials that have defined the standard of care in many malignancies, including those of the testis, thymus, pancreas and breast.

Three affiliates are part of the IU Simon Cancer Center lead site. They are the Richard A. Roudebush VA Medical Center, the IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital and the IU Health Central Indiana Cancer Centers. National Clinical Trial Network research at the affiliate sites is overseen and managed by the IU Simon Cancer Center, allowing patients full access to the network's trials combined with the convenience and support that comes with receiving treatment locally.

The National Clinical Trials Network is intended to improve treatment for the more than 1.6 million Americans diagnosed with cancer each year, according to the National Cancer Institute.

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IU researchers isolate inflammatory process that damages lungs of donors with traumatic brain injury

IU research published Sept. 3 in [Science Translational Medicine](#) sheds light on the potentially lethal process by which outcomes for lung transplant recipients are negatively impacted by donors who experienced traumatic brain injury.

An interdisciplinary team co-led by [Fletcher A. White](#), Ph.D., the Vergil K. Stoelting Professor of Anesthesia, and [David S. Wilkes](#), M.D., executive associate dean for research affairs and director of the [Center for Immunobiology](#) at the [IU School of Medicine](#), found evidence of fluid accumulation in the lung within hours after head trauma. The fluid limits, which the ability of the lung to oxygenate the bloodstream, is particularly relevant in the case of a donor lungs, which may become unsuitable for transplantation. The IU researcher then aimed to determine how precisely brain injury is tied to this lung injury, and the pathway by which this inflammatory process becomes active in the lungs, with the most likely candidates narrowed down to the HMGB1-RAGE pathway. (A molecule named HMGB1 is released into the blood stream following head trauma.) The connection between higher HMGB1 levels in donors and poorer short-term outcomes in transplant recipients was confirmed based upon a biobank of lung transplant recipient and donor blood and tissue samples developed by Dr. Wilkes in collaboration with the IU Health Lung Transplant Program.

The majority of lungs used in transplantation are procured from brain dead donors, of which between 40 and 70 percent have sustained traumatic brain injury. Moreover, only 15 to 20 percent of all lungs evaluated deemed appropriate for transplant. The researchers are optimistic that, by identifying a therapeutic target for the traumatic brain injury-induced lung impairment, the scarce donor pool of lungs may expand and recipient outcomes will improve.

For more on the study, visit the [IUSM Newsroom](#).

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IUSM grants and awards report -- July 2014

IU School of Medicine researchers earned about \$6.6 million in grants and awards -- excluding commercial projects -- in July 2014.

Investigator	Sponsor	Type	Project Title	Begin Date	End Date	Awarded Dollars
Mohamad Azhar, M.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	Cardiac cell lineage-specific function of TGF12 in heart valve development	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$60,000
Ashay D. Bhatwadekar, Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	A study of Per2 dysregulation in diabetic retinopathy	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$60,000
Janice S. Blum, Ph.D.	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	Renewal	Immunology and infectious diseases	01-Aug-14	31-Jul-15	\$283,790
Michael E. Boulton, Ph.D.	Research To Prevent Blindness	New	Unrestricted / Challenge grant	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$115,000
Hal E. Broxmeyer, Ph.D.	National Heart, Lung And Blood Institute	Renewal	Mechanisms of synergistic regulation of stem/progenitors	01-Jul-14	30-Apr-15	\$390,000
Rebecca J. Chan, M.D., Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	Showalter Scholar: Rebecca Chan	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$25,000
Peng-Sheng Chen, M.D.	American Heart Association-Greater Midwest Affiliate	New	Measuring sympathetic nerve activity with skin electrocardiogram electrodes	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$50,048
Peter Chira, M.D.	Rheumatology Research Foundation	New	Amgen Fellowship Training Award	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$30,000
Ann H. Cottingham, MAR	IU Health	New	Using Implementation science to strengthen the role of chaplains in IU Health Palliative Care and Hospice Teams to improve alignment of patient values with patient care	01-Jul-14	31-Mar-16	\$85,454
Stephanie D. Davis, M.D.	Seattle Children's Research Institute	New	OPTIMIZE-IP-12	15-Sep-13	30-Jun-18	\$59,306
Alexander L. Dent, Ph.D.	National Institute	New	Follicular repressor T cells: regulation by Stat proteins and	01-Jul-	30-Jun-	\$195,000

	Allergy and Infectious Diseases		control of antibody responses	14	15	
Michael T. Eadon, M.D.	PhRMA Foundation	New	Genetic susceptibility to nephrotoxicity.	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$120,000
William A. Engle, M.D.	Indiana State Department of Health	New	Placental transfusion in preterm infants born at less than 34 weeks of gestation: role of delayed cord clamping and umbilical cord milking	01-Apr-14	30-Sep-15	\$39,697
Tatiana M. Foroud, Ph.D.	San Diego State University Research Foundation	New	3D Facial Imaging in FASD: Developmental Project	01-Jun-14	31-May-15	\$128,694
Tatiana M. Foroud, Ph.D.	Michael J. Fox Foundation For Parkinsons Research	New	The Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$233,334
Sujuan Gao, Ph.D.	National Institute on Aging	New	Longitudinal interactive vascular exposure and Alzheimer's Disease	01-Jul-14	31-Mar-15	\$311,666
Bernardino Ghetti, M.D.	National Institute on Aging	New	Ninth International Conference on Frontotemporal Dementias	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$50,000
Stacey D. Gilk, Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	"Manipulation of the endoplasmic reticulum by the bacterial pathogen <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> "	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$60,000
Richard B. Gunderman, M.D., Ph.D.	Association of University Radiologists	New	Thick descriptions of excellence in radiological professionalism	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$31,789
Bryan E. Hainline, M.D., Ph.D.	Indiana State Department of Health	Renewal	Indiana State Board of Health: ISDH/CSHN 200-41/#130 Genetic Services at Indiana University	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$231,643
Debra Hickman, DVM	NIH Office of the Director	New	Purchase ventilated caging systems to expand mouse housing capacity	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$500,000
Debra Hickman, DVM	American College of Lab Animal Medicine Foundation	New	Carbon dioxide euthanasia in rats: evaluation of animal well-being at varying displacement rates	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$22,067
Travis J.	Grace M.	New	Targeting Redox Factor-1 in	01-	30-	\$60,000

Jerde, Ph.D.	Showalter Trust		drug-resistant prostate cancer	Jul-14	Jun-15	
Raymond M. Johnson, M.D., Ph.D.	National Institute Allergy and Infectious Diseases	New	Role of Plac8 in natural and vaccine-generated immunity against Chlamydia infections	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$355,399
Steven M. Johnson, Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	Developing HSP60/10 chaperonin inhibitors for breast and colon cancer chemotherapy	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$60,000
Melissa Ann Kacena, Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	Showalter Scholar: Melissa Kacena	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$25,000
Mark R. Kelley, Ph.D.	Riley Children's Foundation	Renewal	Betty and Earl Herr Chair in Pediatric Oncology Research	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$93,555
Jeffrey A. Kline, M.D.	American Heart Association-Greater Midwest Affiliate	New	Exercise and matrix metalloproteinase interdependence after pulmonary embolism	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$43,976
Michael J. Lannoo, Ph.D.	Indiana Department of Natural Resources	New	Determining survivorship in wild-bred, captive-raised crawfish frogs	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-16	\$203,398
Tao Lu, Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	PRMT5: a novel therapeutic target in colon cancer	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$60,000
Daniel T. McKenna, M.D.	Foundation for Surgical Fellowships	New	Foundation for Surgical Fellowship Award	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$42,500
Raghu G. Mirmira, M.D., Ph.D.	American Physiological Society	New	Regulation of islet beta cell inflammation by the DHS/eIF5A pathway	01-Sep-14	31-Aug-15	\$28,300
Amber L. Mosley, Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	Quantitative analysis of transcription elongation protein-protein interaction networks	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$60,000
Grant D. Nicol, Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	Renewal	The role of sphingosine 1-phosphate receptors in neuronal sensitization	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$60,000
Sophie Paczesny, M.D., Ph.D.	Leukemia And Lymphoma Society	New	Translating novel drug-targetable biomarkers to treat graft-versus-host disease	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$110,000
David A.	Riley Children's	Renewal	Pediatric Ophthalmology	01-	30-	\$21,202

Plager, M.D.	Foundation		Research	Jul-14	Jun-15	
Martin H. Plawecki, M.D., Ph.D.	Alcoholic Beverage Medical Research Foundation	New	Alcohol exposure rate control	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$75,000
Lyne Racette, Ph.D.	Brightfocus Foundation	New	An individualized model to monitor glaucoma progression	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$50,000
Chad V. Ruffin, M.D.	American Academy Of Otolaryngology	New	The perception of indexical cues as a task secondary to speech perception	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$9,948
Ravi P. Sahu, Ph.D.	National Institute Of Environmental Hlth Sciences	New	Environmental pro-oxidative stressor and immunosuppression	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$162,517
C. Henrique Serezani, Ph.D.	National Heart, Lung And Blood Institute	New	Phosphatase and tensin homolog PTEN actions in polymicrobial sepsis	15-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$390,000
Anna Maria V. Storniolo, M.D.	Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation	Renewal	The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center	01-Jun-13	31-May-15	\$600,000
William J. Sullivan, Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	Showalter Scholar: William Sullivan	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$25,000
Jie Sun, Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	"Increasing host resistance to influenza virus infection by >targeting Bcl6"	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$60,000
Debbie C. Thurmond, Ph.D.	National Institute Of Diabetes, Digestive & Kidney	Renewal	Regulating SNARE mechanisms to remediate glucose homeostasis	07-Jul-14	31-May-15	\$336,209
Alexia M. Torke, M.D.	The Greenwall Foundation	New	What do surrogate decision makers mean by goals of care for seriously ill older adults?	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-16	\$111,606
Matthew J. Turner, M.D., Ph.D.	Dermatology Foundation	Renewal	Inductive keratinocyte-derived cytokines in a murine model of atopic dermatitis	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$55,000
Jingyun Wang, Ph.D.	Grace M. Showalter Trust	New	"Does prompt feedback from the Smart Eye Patch(TM) enhance compliance with amblyopia treatment?"	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$60,000
Ronald C.	Grace M.	New	"Translation and stress	01-	30-	\$60,000

Wek, Ph.D.	Showalter Trust		regulatory pathways in health and disease"	Jul-14	Jun-15	
Xiao-Ming Xu, M.D., Ph.D.	Virginia Commonwealth University	New	Tissue engineering for remyelination after spinal cord injury	02-Dec-13	29-Oct-14	\$171,390
Zao Cheng Xu, M.D., Ph.D.	American Heart Assoc-greater Midwest Affiliate	New	PKC regulation of potassium current after ischemia	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$71,500
Shuyu Yao, Ph.D.	American Lung Association	New	Regulation of pulmonary inflammation during respiratory syncytial virus infection	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$32,500
Mervin C. Yoder, M.D.	Riley Children's Foundation	Renewal	Simmons Clinical Studies	01-Jul-14	30-Jun-15	\$40,000

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Faculty and Staff News

Debra Wood honored with named scholarship as first winner of lab researcher award

Debra Wood, assistant professor of clinical pathology and laboratory medicine at the IU School of Medicine, has been named the first recipient of the **urEssential Award** from Cardinal Health.

The award is designed to recognize the contributions that laboratorians make every day to provide care for patients. In her role as program director for the Histotechnology Distance Learning Program, Wood is dedicated to developing the skills and knowledge of a profession that has one of the highest vacancy rates in the field.

In addition, Wood has worked with nearly 400 laboratories/facilities to train students and to better understand guidelines. She serves on the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, volunteering as a member of the Review Committee for Accredited Programs, site visitor and paper reviewer for programs going through the accreditation process as well as formulating and making approval recommendations. In 2012, she served on the Standards Review Task Force and was appointed as a Discipline Lead Person to provide interpretation of the standards to program officials.

As chair for the American Society for Pathologist Histotechnology HT/HTL Exam Committee, Wood keeps committee members aware of trends relevant to the field of histotechnology. She also works to ensure that committee members have diverse backgrounds by recruiting professionals from the clinical laboratory, veterinary and research industry.

The Cardinal Health urEssential Award provides support to students pursuing careers in laboratory medicine, with a \$20,000 scholarship in Wood's name to be provided to the institute of her choice.

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Student Showcase

Student Research Program in Academic Medicine poster session

Student Research Program in Academic Medicine participants will present their research at a [poster session](#) from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, in the VanNuys Medical Science Building atrium.

SRPinAM students spent 12 weeks each summer under the mentorship of IU School of Medicine researchers on their own research projects. They also attended weekly seminars to learn more about the process of considering research as a future endeavor. All SRPinAM students are second-year medical students. The director of the program is Nadia Carlesso, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics and of medical and molecular genetics.

Prior to the poster session, SRPinAM named eight students scholarship recipients based on oral presentations delivered July 31 and Aug. 1 in the VanNuys Medical Science Building atrium. Chen Mu, a second-year medical student, received first place with a scholarship of \$13,000. Mu's research mentor was Yan Liu, Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics. Additional awards ranged from \$5,000 to \$1,000. [Additional scholarship winners' names are online.](#)

For more information on the program, [visit the Office of Medical Student Affairs' website.](#)

If you have questions, contact Jose Espada at jespada@iu.edu.

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News to Use

Reminder: InScope launches 'mobile-first' redesign

This week marks the first issue of the redesigned InScope, the official weekly internal newsletter for faculty, staff, residents, fellows and students at the IU School of Medicine

The new format, which was undertaken in collaboration with the IU School of Medicine Faculty Steering Committee and based upon feedback from a communications survey in March 2013, features a streamlined, "mobile-first" responsive to viewing device. The layout has also been optimized for easy viewing and at-a-glance information with a single page design that addresses the "on-the-go" work environment of many faculty, staff and students at the IU School of Medicine.

All major categories are viewable beneath large text headlines that directly link to additional information on a single, scrollable webpage. Event items go to the IUSM Calendar, which also features additional activities beyond those found in the weekly email.

The design and technical implementation were provided by IU Communications. For more information, see

the **complete announcement** from the Aug. 28 issue of InScope.

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Opportunities

Indiana Biobank biospecimen storage for pilot studies -- Request for applications

The **Indiana Biobank** requests applications from researchers who wish to store biospecimens in support of pilot or feasibility studies.

The Indiana Biobank is a statewide resource of human biological specimens that are linked to electronic medical records whose mission is to create a collection of well characterized specimens that can serve as a research resource to enhance translational research.

This RFA seeks to expand the custom collections available through the Indiana Biobank. Applicants can request samples be collected from up to 20 individuals. The types of samples that may be collected include: blood (for RNA, plasma, serum or DNA), saliva, or urine. Applicants must provide an approved specimen collection protocol or must work with Indiana Biobank staff to develop a collection protocol that satisfies criteria established by the biobank.

The Indiana Biobank currently contains samples from over 15,000 individuals, all of which are linked (with informed consent) thorough the medical record number to the Indiana Network for Patient Care. The biobank has the capacity to collect specific specimens (e.g., plasma, serum, urine) to meet an investigator's research needs. With informed consent, biobank specimens can be used for broad, unspecified future research.

Three applications will be funded for up to \$5,000 each. Applications are due **5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15.**

To apply, visit the Indiana CTSI **grants portal** and enter your institutional username and password. Applications instructions are located under "Pilot Funding for Custom Biospecimen Collection Using INDIANA BIOBANK (IB) Infrastructure - 2014.09."

If you have questions on the appropriate scope of proposals, contact Tatiana Foroud, M.D., at **tforoud@iu.edu**, or Brooke Patz at **bpatz@iu.edu**. If you have questions on grant submissions or budgeting, contact Anne Nguyen at 317-278-2874 or **info@indianactsi.org**. Direct all other questions to **ictsi@iu.edu** or 317-278-CTSI (2874).

The Indiana Biobanks was established in 2010 with initial support from the Lilly Endowment. Additional support is provided by the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, one of more than 60 institutes supported by National Institutes of Health National Center for Advancing translational Sciences.

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Poster abstracts sought for Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Sixth Annual Meeting


Poster abstracts are sought for the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute Sixth Annual Meeting, "From Academic Centers to Population Health," from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at the

Hine Hall Auditorium on the IUPUI campus in Indianapolis.

To submit an abstract for the scientific poster session, please **fill out a submission form** by **Monday, Sept. 15**. All relevant posters will be accepted up to the maximum capacity and should be no larger than 4-feet-by-4-feet. There will be awards for best poster presentations.

The keynote speaker for the Sixth Annual Indiana CTSI Meeting will be David Hickam, M.D., MPH, director of the Clinical Effectiveness Research Program at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, who will present "Vision of PCORI for Patient Engagement, Pragmatic Clinical Trials and Medical Informatics." Dr. Hickam is responsible for the development of PCORI's research program, which evaluates comparisons among alternative clinical strategies in a broad range of clinical domains. He is also the founding director of the John M. Eisenberg Clinical Decisions and Communications Science Center, supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, which develops innovative approaches for the use evidence-based information to help people participate in decision making about their health care.

Additional speakers included Jay L. Hess, M.D., Ph.D., MHSA, dean of the IU School of Medicine and vice president for university clinical affairs at IU; and Paul K. Halverson, Dr.Ph., dean of the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health at IUPUI. IUPUI Chancellor Charles R. Bantz, Ph.D., will deliver the welcome.

A  **complete agenda** is online. To RSVP, visit the **registration page**. Anyone from the Indiana CTSI members institutions of IU, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame are welcome to attend. This is a free event. Lunch will be provided.

If you have questions, contact info@indianactsi.org.


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IU Center of Excellence in Molecular Hematology Pilot and Feasibility program grant

The IU Center of Excellence in Molecular Hematology announces the availability of a new round of funding opportunity through the Pilot and Feasibility program of the Center.

Applications should focus on the molecular and cellular biology of normal murine and human hematopoietic stem and progenitor cell regulation and the hematopoietic parameters impacting the efficient use of these cells in clinical transplantation and in cellular and gene therapy. Applications will be reviewed by an internal review committee and rankings will be completed based on significance, innovation, approach, feasibility, and the prospect of obtaining extramural funding for the proposed project. Applications focused on malignant hematopoiesis will be removed from the review.

IU faculty at the rank of assistant or associate professor or an equivalent research rank are eligible. Investigators with outside funding can apply provided there is no overlap between their funded research and the proposal submitted for this mechanism. Previous recipients of Center of Excellence in Molecular Hematology Pilot and Feasibility program grants in the last cycle of funding are not eligible.

Funding for a maximum of \$12,500 should be requested for supplies and fees. For more information on eligibility and application requirements, please  **download the complete application guidelines**. Applications are due **5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26**.

Submit your application documents electronically (as single pdf containing all the required forms) to Edward

F. Srour, Ph.D., at esrour@iupui.edu and April D. Maines at amaines@iupui.edu.

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Fall 2014 Core Pilot Grants -- Request for applications

The Indiana CTSI Fall 2014 Core Pilot Grants seeks applications from researchers who wish to use technologies and expertise afforded by the Indiana CTSI core facilities at IU, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame.

The program aims to promote the use of technologies and expertise afforded by the CTSI Core Facilities. Examples of eligible projects include obtaining critical preliminary data for a grant application (either new award or competing renewal), obtaining a critical reagent or resource for new studies (e.g.: a new transgenic or knockout mouse model) or pilot experiments to test a new idea or establish a new line of research.

Successful proposals will demonstrate outstanding scientific merit that can be linked to generating extramural funding or novel intellectual property. Success of the program will be viewed, in part, by the fostering of new funded grants or providing significant contributions to grant renewals. Proposals will be judged with equal measure on scientific merit and the likelihood of generating new intellectual property or extramural grant support.

Applications to this program are expected to have a maximum requested amount of \$10,000; projects typically are one to two years in duration.

Funding is for utilization of designated Indiana CTSI core facilities only. The Indiana CTSI website [includes descriptions of all available cores](#) at IU, Purdue and Notre Dame. The Indiana CTSI seal denotes cores eligible under this program.

The application deadline is **4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 29**.

Faculty from IU, Purdue and Notre Dame are eligible to apply. For university- and campus-specific eligibility guidelines, or to apply, visit the Indiana CTSI [grants portal](#) and enter your institutional username and password. Applications instructions are located under "[Pilot Funding for Research Use of Core Facilities - 2014.09](#)."

For more information, email Anne Nguyen at 317-278-2874 or info@indianactsi.org.

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Kudos

Emeritus professor authors new book

Roland (Rolly) B. McGrath, M.D., professor emeritus of emergency medicine and medicine, is the author of a new book, "Rain Boy," released on Aug. 12.

The book, published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, LLC, is a collection of conversations and interactions with the author's 27-year-old Autistic son. It contains short anecdotes highlighting the author's son's disabilities, challenges, savantism and more in personal conversations and e-mail with his siblings

and selected close friends. These scenarios highlight some of the characteristics of autism while unveiling the raw charm, gentility, humor and sadness that can surround those with such disabilities.

"The intent of my effort was to share an experience with either of two audiences: those who work with, live with and otherwise care about people with challenges because they would recognize and most appreciate and identify with the scenarios revealed, and the general public, for whom this immersion may be important to prepare for the inevitable contact with those with challenges," Dr. McGrath said.

Based upon data solicited between 2006 and 2008, the Centers for Disease Control has reported that the prevalence of developmental disorders among U.S. children was 1 in 6, and Autism Spectrum Disorder 1 in 88.

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