

Creating Medical Partners

October 12, 2007

The merger of hospitals on campus has created a bond with the university to enhance and develop research techniques

Duration

3:14

Transcript

[O. Pescovitz] Ten years ago, Clarian Health Partners was formed as a merger between Indiana University School of Medicine's two hospitals, which, at the time, were University Hospital and Riley Hospital, the children's hospital. They merged together with the community hospital known as Methodist Hospital to create the enterprise now known as Clarian Health Partners. And, Clarian Health Partners today is our major clinical partner. We're very fortunate to have an unbelievable minefield of wonderful clinical cases for our medical students, and our residents and fellows, to learn from. So it's a tremendous and very rich source of educational material.

The interesting thing about the School of Medicine is that we have three major mission areas. And all of those mission areas are focused on the same goal, that goal being to promote human health, and to prevent disease. The three mission areas are our clinical, or our service mission area, our educational area, and our research mission. So having a very rich clinical partner, like we do with the hospitals that we are affiliated with, really gives us a tremendous boost when it comes to the clinical mission, but also when it comes to the educational mission, but very importantly to the research mission. Because being exposed to patients and their diseases allows clinical scientists, physician scientists, to think about "Where is there room to advance the health and the life sciences. What sort of advances are needed in order to really promote the field."

And, so, research, which is largely designed for advancing the field, taking us from good to great, is really based on seeing clinical cases that deserve improvement. So research can then be focused on making those improvements, elevating the bar, changing the mark, and really advancing human health.

Research is about making a discovery that then has impact on human health. So, how can you have impact? Well, historically, the way scientists had impact was that they made their discoveries then published them in scientific journals. That's no longer really sufficient for impacting health. And today, the best way to impact human health is to take a discovery from the laboratory bench, translate it into something that has direct relevance to humans, then transfer it further to the larger community.

One of the things we're very excited about is technology transfer: taking discoveries from the bench, applying them to humans, and then developing new drugs, new methods of delivery, new companies and products, new licenses. Because we're not just interested in human health, we're also very interested in the economic health of the state of Indiana.