



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

June 23, 2010

TO: Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Indiana University Trustees
Indiana University – Purdue University of Indianapolis Graduate Committee
Indiana University Bloomington Academic Leadership Committee

RE: R. Mark Payne, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics (Cardiology)

As the leaders of the Ph.D. programs at IU School of Medicine, the Basic Science Council has reviewed and discussed the new graduate proposal entitled, “*The Translational Science Program of Indiana (TSPI)*.” We are in strong support of this new graduate program. If approved, this program would broadly benefit the life science graduate students in our programs at Indiana and Purdue University campuses. The design of the program will allow Ph.D. students in the life sciences to participate. The TSPI program will permit these students to choose from mentored training experiences ranging from coursework to improve their knowledge of clinical and translational science in to completing interactive clinical experiences in order to earn a Ph.D. degree minor or a graduate certificate in Translational Science.

We believe this program fills a critical need in our training programs by increasing the clinical understanding and improving training of our doctoral students in a multi-disciplinary setting. We anticipate the students will bring this knowledge to their research projects. The program will thereby improve the quality and clinical relevance of research performed in our various units, promote basic/clinical student and faculty interactions, promote collaborative research between the Departments, the Schools, and the Universities, and most importantly will produce students that will be leaders in future translational research teams. We look forward to working with Dr. Payne on this new and exciting training program.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Vasko, Ph.D.
Chair, Basic Science Council
Paul Stark Professor of Pharmacology