



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

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Top News

New research program provides \$300 million to solve world's most urgent health challenges

On Tuesday, the IU Vice President for Research sent to all faculty an announcement regarding the first Request for Proposals (RFP) for the IU Grand Challenges (GC) Program. As noted in the RFP, IUSM faculty may (and are encouraged to) participate in proposals led by colleagues at IU Bloomington, where overarching themes have not been selected. However, as was also noted in the VPR's RFP announcement, both IUPUI and IUSM have more defined approaches to their Grand Challenge initiatives:

- Grand Challenge Initiative proposals led by IUPUI faculty must fit within the overarching theme of "Urban Health and Well Being."
- Proposals led by IU School of Medicine faculty will be developed through selected work groups within the following overarching themes: "Precision Medicine," "Population Health" and "Improving Health at Life's Transitions." The process for initiating these Grand Challenges within IUSM is still being determined and will be announced separately.

At this time, IUSM is focusing on the topic of "Precision Medicine" for its Grand Challenge initiative. As planning takes shape, a work group of faculty experts will be formed to design and implement this initiative. IUSM welcomes input from interested faculty regarding project concepts, needed infrastructure and recruitment of new faculty expertise in the area of Precision Medicine, via email to iusmoper@iupui.edu.

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They're off: Annual Miles for Myeloma ride began today

The 11th annual 284-mile, three-day “Miles for Myeloma” ride kicked off this morning in St. Louis with 20 cyclists starting at the Gateway Arch.

This year's cyclists include original ride founder, IUSM's [Rafat Abonour M.D.](#), two myeloma patients, six IUHSCC researchers/caregivers, 12 family members of patients and two family members of IUSCC staff. Cyclists traveled in from Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York and Virginia.

The crew will ride 105 miles and finish day one in Effingham, IL. Tomorrow, 10 additional cyclists will join in and ride 101 miles to finish in Terre Haute. The final leg of the tour is a 78-mile ride to the finish line at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in downtown Indy.

Dollars raised support myeloma research at the IU Simon Cancer Center. To date, more than \$2.4 million has been raised for multiple myeloma research at the IU Simon Cancer Center. To learn more about the ride and the cause, or to donate, visit <http://cancer.iu.edu/m4m/>.

If you'd like to follow the ride over the next few days, please like [Miles for Myeloma](#) on Facebook. You can also see a photo of this year's participants at the Gateway Arch on the [IU School of Medicine Facebook page](#).

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Gold Humanism Honor Society welcomes 2015-16 inductees; ceremony Sept. 18

On Friday, Sept. 18, the IU School of Medicine will induct new students, residents and faculty into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

The IUSM chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society was established during the 2005-06 academic year as a means of formally recognizing medical students, resident physicians and faculty who demonstrate exemplary behavior that promotes humanism in medicine. Creation of the GHHS chapter was made possible by a grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.

The school's GHHS inductees join more than 22,000 members across the nation. Induction into this society is recognized by many as the pinnacle of professionalism for medical students and residents. Additional information about the Gold Humanism Honor Society is available on the [national website](#).

The reception will take place on Sept. 18 at Fairbanks Hall. The reception starts at 5:30 pm, with the program following at 6 pm. Visit the Medical Student Education [Office of Student Affairs website](#) to see a list of inductees and learn more about the ceremony. RSVP by Sept. 11.

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Flu shots required for many at IUSM, available free from IUPUI Campus Health

All IUSM faculty, staff and students who provide clinical care to IU Health or Eskenazi patients, perform clinical research at IU Health or Eskenazi, or whose primary office is in an IU Health or Eskenazi hospital are required to receive a flu vaccine this flu season. The deadline for receiving the vaccine is Nov. 12.

IUPUI Campus Health is offering free flu shots to IUSM faculty, staff and students at Campus Health

(Coleman Hall, Suite 100) and at Campus Health outreach flu vaccination clinics. Students can also receive a flu shot at Campus Center Student Health. No appointment is necessary. All individuals must present a valid university picture ID to obtain a flu shot. Students will be asked to present a health insurance card but will be able to receive a free flu shot regardless of whether they have health insurance.

IUPUI Campus Health will hold the following flu shot outreach clinics across the IUPUI campus from September through November:

Sept. 16: IU Neurosciences Research Building (RM 1353A) – 1 to 3 pm

Sept. 23: Medical Sciences Atrium – 8 am to 4 pm

Sept. 24: Medical Sciences Atrium – 8 am to 4 pm

Oct. 27: Glick Eye Center (outside Spitzberg Conference Room) – 8 to 10 am

Campus Health (Coleman Hall, Suite 100) hours for vaccinations:

Monday, 7:30 am to 5 pm

Tuesday, 7:30 am to 5 pm

Wednesday, 7:30 am to 5 pm

Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm

Friday, 7:30 am to 5 pm

Campus Student Health (CE 213) hours for vaccinations (students only):

Monday, 9 am to 4 pm


Tuesday, 9 am to 6 pm

Wednesday, 9 am to 6 pm

Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm

Friday, 9 am to 2 pm

IUPUI Campus Health is charged with tracking flu shot compliance for IUSM house staff and students. Flu shots received from Campus Health will automatically be tracked. Staff and students who opt to receive flu vaccination from IU Health, a personal physician or elsewhere must submit their flu shot consent form to IUPUI Campus Health at healthsv@iupui.edu or via fax at 317-278-6929. Individuals should take a picture of their flu consent form with their smart phone immediately upon receiving the vaccine and email it to healthsv@iupui.edu and keep their flu consent form in a safe place.

Individuals requesting a waiver due to an evidence-based medical contraindication to the vaccine must submit a  **Flu Vaccine Medical Exemption request** by Oct. 31. Those wishing a Religious Exemption can use the same form and note they are requesting a religious exemption.

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Surgery grand rounds conflict of interest panel discussion Sept. 30

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, Alexander Djuricich, M.D., will moderate a panel discussion titled “Industry Relations Conflict of Interest at IUSM” as part of surgery grand rounds. Members of all departments are invited to attend.

The panelists include:

- Naga Chalasani, M.D., department of medicine, division of gastroenterology
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- Eric Meslin, Ph.D., associate dean, bioethics
- Ben Randel, M.D., MBA, department of medicine, department of pediatrics, resident physician
- Joe Scodro, J.D., university counsel
- Jodi Smith, Ph.D, M.D., department of neurological surgery

This panel discussion will take place from 8:15 - 9:15 am in Emerson Hall Room 317, eligible for CME credit.

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Research News

New scoring system suggests less-invasive colonoscopy test for some patients

Researchers at the Regenstrief Institute and the Indiana University School of Medicine have developed a new risk assessment scoring system that could help physicians judge which patients can forgo invasive colonoscopy testing for cancer screening and which should receive the test.

According to published literature and guideline organizations, 85 percent of the population is classified as at "average risk" for colorectal cancer, which accounts for 55,000 deaths per year. Yet colorectal cancer screening tests, while cost-effective, are underused and used inefficiently because of the current inability to more precisely tailor screening methods according to risk.

"The main question was, *Can the risk factors most frequently associated with the risks for colorectal cancer and advanced, precancerous polyps be used in combination to stratify risk for advanced neoplasia in average-risk persons?*", explained study lead author Thomas F. Imperiale, M.D., [Regenstrief Institute](#) investigator and professor of medicine at the [IU School of Medicine](#).

The results of the study, "[Derivation and Validation of a Scoring System to Stratify Risk for Advanced Colorectal Neoplasia in Asymptomatic Adults](#)," was published in the Sept. 1 issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

The study was conducted with average-risk patients (i.e., no high-risk familial cancer syndromes) aged 50 to 80 years who were undergoing initial screening colonoscopy in several Midwestern endoscopy units and practices. Points for the risk assessment score were assigned based on risk factors for both colorectal cancer and advanced precancerous polyps: age, gender, family history of colorectal cancer, smoking history and waist circumference. Participants were then separated by score into very low-, low-, intermediate- and high-risk categories. The researchers found that there indeed were fewer advanced neoplasms in the low- and very low-risk groups, suggesting that less-invasive tests, such as sigmoidoscopies or occult blood tests, might be appropriate for those patients. However, those in the higher risk groups might need a colonoscopy.

To read the full news release, visit the [IUSM newsroom](#).

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IUSM researchers' hearing-loss technology wins Seed Stage Award, funding

Auricyte LLC, an Indiana University startup that aims to cure hearing loss by growing human stem cells into functioning hearing cells, is among five companies named “Best in Show” at the recent [Innovation Showcase 2015](#).

Co-founded in 2014 by IU School of Medicine researchers Karl Koehler, Eri Hashino and Gerry Oxford, the Indianapolis-based company was one of 74 ventures to take part in what is considered the Hoosier state’s largest annual expo for fledgling companies. Held at Speedway’s Dallara IndyCar Factory and sponsored in part by [Innovate Indiana](#), the event -- created by the Venture Club of Indiana in 2009 -- introduces participants to potential investors and requires “minute pitches” to sell their ideas.

Auricyte’s self-described “ear-in-a-dish” technology, otherwise known as the 3D Ear platform, represents a next-generation therapy that extends beyond the amplified sound currently offered by hearing aids and cochlear implants.

Auricyte won the competition’s Seed Stage Award, receiving the most votes of any company that seeks such funding, Koehler said. Seed funds are the earliest form of capital sought by startup companies. Learn more about Auricyte, LLC and “Ear-in-a-dish” at the [IU newsroom](#).

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Faculty and Staff News

IUSM volunteers help prepare for IU Health Day of Service

In preparation for the IU Health Day of Service on Friday, Sept. 18, IU School of Medicine staff and students volunteered time to paint cement pavers at Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health.

The volunteers included staff from the Dean’s office, medical students, School of Nursing personnel and IU Health Day of Service staff members. The pavers painted by volunteers will be used on the IU Health Day of Service to help enhance parks and other areas dedicated to healthy recreation. Photos of the pavers and volunteers are available on the [IU School of Medicine Facebook page](#).

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New AMIA 10x10 course offering: Exchange for Population Health

Starting Sept. 16, Brian E. Dixon, MPA, Ph.D., will offer an online course that provides up to 44 hours of CME for physicians as part of IUPUI’s contribution to the AMIA 10x10 program.

This new course, "Exchange for Population Health" will provide an introduction to an important topic facing public health right now: how to access and manage electronic information streams useful to improving population health. This online course will examine the strategic, organizational, legal, technical and socio-political aspects of clinical and public health information exchange in the United States and abroad.

Registration closes on Wednesday, Sept. 16, and classes start the same day. The class finishes on Nov. 18. [Click here](#) to learn more about the topic or register for the class.

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Student News

Community Leadership Mentor Program prepares students for nonprofit service

First-year IU School of Medicine students with an interest in nonprofit work are encouraged to take part in the Community Leadership Mentor Program.

Through collaborations with participating organizations, students are given the opportunity to visit local nonprofits in the spring of their first year. In the second year of the program, students will actively observe board and committee meetings at their chosen nonprofit. In the final two years of medical school, students will have the opportunity to become actively involved with the nonprofit's board.

Established in 1999, CLMP is now available at all nine IUSM campuses as a program of [Office of Medical Service Learning](#).

Interested in joining the CLMP? You can [apply online](#) now through Sept. 25. For more information about service and service learning, contact Lisa Christy at christyl@iu.edu.

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SRPinAM Poster Session

Forty-eight medical students participated in the Student Research Program in Academic Medicine Poster Session held Thursday, Sept. 3, in the Mills Atrium of the VanNuys Medical Science Building.

The event showcased the work of students who participated in the SRPinAM during the summer of 2015. The students spent the summer working with a mentor on a research project that could be completed within the 12 weeks of the summer program. Additionally, five students, who were selected for the SRPinAM, but ended up doing another program, were invited to show their work. Each student gave a 10-minute presentation on their work to a group of faculty judges who judged the poster on scientific quality, presentation, poster organization and response to questions.

Nadia Carlesso, director of the SRPinAM, presented award certificates to nine of the students who were selected as the top oral presenters from the SRPinAM Oral Presentation Competition held on July 30 and 31. Carlesso congratulated the students on an excellent job over the summer and encouraged them to continue their research. The program's aim is to expose medical students to research in hopes of producing or encouraging students to become physician scientists.

Nine students were awarded the honor of best poster, and three students received honorable mention.

Best Poster Honorees

- Katelyn Marie Banschbach: "Triggering ST2 on human T9 cells as a treatment for acute myeloid leukemia"
- Megan Burcham: "Role of ferritin in leukemia"
- Wenjing Cai: "Evaluating the mechanism of SKP2 E3 ligase in regulating hematopoietic stem cells"

(HSC) aging”

- Roger Michael Cournoyer: “Mutant p53 interacts with the ras-activated ets-2 transcription factor to promote mdm2-mediated metastasis”
- Andrew J. Johnson: “FHF2A and FHF2B as novel targets for pain management”
- Carter David Mikesell: “Cancer-associated muscle weakness using a syngeneic mouse breast cancer model”
- Austin Jeffrey Pucylowski: “Inhibition of Ca²⁺ / calmodulin-dependent protein kinase kinase 2 as a ‘dual-hit’ therapy against androgen deprivation therapy-mediated osteoporosis and prostate cancer growth”
- Christopher Andrew Schneble: “Muscle dysfunction and wasting in a multiple myeloma mouse model”
- Ting Wei: “Telomere attrition in breast cancer”

Honorable Mentions

- Ryan Kabir: “Diffuse atherosclerosis associated with coronary vasospasm in ossabaw miniature swine with metabolic syndrome”
- Mohammad Zoheir Saltagi: “The localization and function of toxoplasma gondii’s metacaspase”
- Michael Jay Ye: “Anti-arrhythmic remodeling of the sympathetic nervous system following renal denervation”

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Opportunities

Biostatistics walk-in clinic offers free consultations for studies and data analysis

The IUSM Department of Biostatistics offers a free weekly walk-in clinic for investigators and researchers needing support for study design, sample size, power calculations, data analysis advice, interpretation of results and statistical software.

The clinic is held on Mondays from noon to 2 pm in the Rotary Building, room 130. No reservations are required, and no appointment is needed. To learn more about this opportunity, visit the [Department of Biostatistics website](#).

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2015-16 Indiana CTSI Postdoc Challenge grant applications due Feb. 29

The Postdoc Challenge offers postdoctoral research associates at Indiana University, Purdue University, and the University of Notre Dame valuable proposal-writing and -reviewing experience in areas related to translational research through the use of one or more of the **CTSI-Designated Core Facilities** at these universities. This is a competitive opportunity for two one-year awards of \$5,000 each per institution in the form of an expense account for use of core facility services. Funding is to be used only for services provided by the core facilities.

CTSI-Designated Core Facilities are cores that undergo a yearly accreditation process through Indiana CTSI which allows them to participate in pilot funding opportunities administered through the Indiana CTSI for all partner institutions. The Postdoc Challenge aims to introduce the postdoctoral research community to the grant-writing process and the experience of reviewing submitted proposals.

Postdoctoral research associates from Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame are encouraged to submit applications that clearly articulate their translational strategy (i.e., from lab bench to bedside) and how this strategy can be advanced through the use of technologies offered by a core facility. Applicants must make contact with and request a Letter of Support from the core facility manager(s) to confirm that the proposed project can be accomplished in their core facility. Awardees will be expected to develop and manage a project budget that aligns with the translational strategy. A six-month and a final progress report will be required over the one-year project period.

Review Process: Applications will be reviewed and ranked by a group comprising selected faculty and members of the postdoctoral community. The final selection and funding recommendations will be made by the Indiana CTSI Executive Committee.

Application: Postdoctoral research associates from Indiana University, Purdue University's West Lafayette campus and the University of Notre Dame are eligible to **apply**. Applications are due by Monday, Feb. 29, 2016, at 5 p.m. EDT. Awardees will be announced in April 2016. A letter of support from the applicant's advisor is necessary for participation in this challenge. Questions can be directed to Thomas Sors, Ph.D., at tsors@purdue.edu.

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Eskenazi Health Midtown Community Mental Health to host Hiring Fair Sept. 15

Eskenazi Health Midtown Community Mental Health is seeking qualified individuals to fill several open positions. The positions include care coordinators (case managers), licensed and unlicensed clinicians (therapists and social workers), and support specialists (community and residential services).

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 5-8 p.m., prospective candidates are invited to visit the Eskenazi Health Midtown Community Mental Health Dr. James J. Wright Center at 1700 N. Illinois St. to learn about the open positions. Parking is available in the parking lot just north of the building.

The positions include openings in clinic- and community-based services, which provide care to persons with serious mental illness, chronic addiction, and children with serious emotional disturbance and their families. The areas include adult, children, school-based, addiction and residential services.

"This is an exciting time to join the Eskenazi Health Midtown team," said Margie Payne, CEO of Eskenazi Health Midtown and vice president of mental health operations for Eskenazi Health. "The hiring fair offers a one-stop shop for candidates to learn about positions available at Eskenazi Health Midtown and to get a glimpse of the great care and services we provide to our clients and patients."

Candidates for a care coordinator position must have a bachelor's degree in human services; clinicians are required to have a master's degree in a license-eligible field of study or licensed as a social worker; and support specialists are required to have a high school diploma. Required experience varies based on the position.

Applicants are asked to bring their resume and any information they feel is important to the professional, open job interview session on Sept. 15. Candidates should prepare to spend the necessary amount of time at the session for the interview process and any follow-up that will be conducted. No child care will be provided.

Eskenazi Health Midtown offers a comprehensive benefits package, including tuition reimbursement, retirement plans through OneAmerica, free employee wellness programs, medical/dental/vision/life insurance, paid time off and more.

Eskenazi Health Midtown was established in 1969 as the first mental health center in Indiana and offers an array of mental health services, including severe mental illness and substance abuse treatment, 24-hour emergency services, a detoxification unit, a full continuum of care for people with chronic addiction, specialized home- and community-based programs for children and adolescents with serious emotional disorders, and a partial-hospitalization program.

Individuals are invited to apply online at www.EskenaziHealth.edu/Careers at any time, and questions can be directed to Eskenazi Health Human Resources at 1.855.360.JOBS.

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