



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

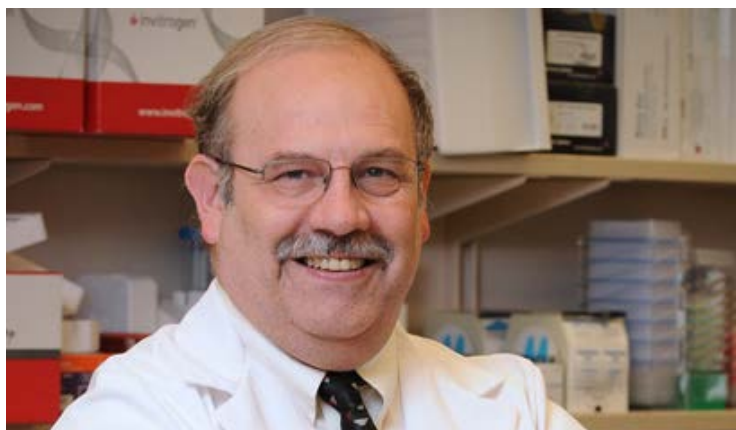
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Top News


Indiana CTSI annual meeting on Sept. 11; keynote by global research leader

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (Indiana CTSI) will host its seventh annual meeting and Watanabe Prize Lecture on Sept. 11 at Hine Hall.

The keynote speaker is Watanabe Prize winner Carl H. June, M.D., Richard W. Vague professor in Immunotherapy and director of the Center for Cellular Immunotherapies in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. June is an internationally recognized translational research leader and clinician who has led the development and testing of novel forms of immunotherapy in cancer and chronic infections, making seminal contributions in determining mechanisms of lymphocyte activation.

The Watanabe Prize in Translational Research, presented by the Indiana CTSI and the IU School of Medicine, recognizes a member of the scientific or medical community who has achieved outstanding accomplishments in translational research. As the recipient, Dr. June will spend several days in Indiana sharing his knowledge with audiences at the IU School of Medicine and partner institutions. The Indiana CTSI annual meeting will also highlight two outstanding young investigators named Watanabe Translational Scholars. They will present a brief overview of their research during the event and will be mentored by Dr. June over the next two years.

In addition to the keynote address, Hal Broxmeyer, Ph.D.; Sophie Paczesny, M.D., Ph.D.; Michael Kalos Ph.D., from Lilly Research Laboratories; and Rob Lyles and Erik Woods from Cook Industries (Regentec) will share their latest findings in immune and cell based therapies.

The event will run from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m with lunch provided.  [View the meeting agenda](#) to learn more, or [register](#) for the meeting by Sept. 10. This activity has been approved for 3.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)* by IU School of Medicine.

About the Indiana CTSI: Established in 2008, The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, directed by Anantha Shekhar, M.D., Ph.D., is a statewide collaboration of Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame along with many public and private corporate partnerships to facilitate the translation of scientific discoveries in the lab into new patient treatments in Indiana and beyond. For more information, visit indianactsi.org.

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IUSM's Krannert Institute of Cardiology donates school supplies to IPS #61

Faculty and staff members from the Indiana University School of Medicine Krannert Institute of Cardiology recently donated school supplies to students and teachers at Indianapolis Public Schools Clarence Farrington Elementary #61.

The school supplies were given to children whose families were unable to purchase the necessary supplies at the start of the school year. The donated supplies also went to teachers who were in need of extra materials for their classrooms.

The IUSM Krannert Institute of Cardiology has adopted School #61 and will continue to donate to Clarence Farrington Elementary at the start of each new school year, as well as during the holiday season.

To see photos of the staff and supplies, visit the [IUSM Facebook](#) page.

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Spirit store launch delayed

The IU School of Medicine will delay launch of the Spirit Store until later this fall. Thank you to those who visited the site and placed orders. Please be assured that you have not been charged for the items selected. IUSM apologizes for this delay and looks forward to re-launching the site soon.

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Research News

Clinical trial is first to study impact of cognitive impairment assessment in primary care

The first clinical trial to investigate the impact of primary care physicians testing their patients for cognitive impairment found that doctors who were given information on a patient's cognitive status provided more care focused on cognition, but that care had no impact on the overall rate of the patient's cognitive decline.

"Given the high rate of under-detection of cognitive impairment in primary care and the fact that older adults with unrecognized cognitive impairment are at risk of poor outcomes, we wanted to see what doctors would do with information about cognitive status," said study first author Nicole Fowler, Ph.D. "We have demonstrated that (while) having available cognitive information had some impact on physician behavior, it had little impact on patient outcomes."

"Although the physician response was modest, it is possible that a more significant response will be seen once more effective treatments become available and as more programs offer support to patients with cognitive impairment and their families." Dr. Fowler is a Regenstrief Institute and Indiana University Center for Aging Research investigator. She is an assistant professor of medicine at the IU School of Medicine. At the time the study was conducted, she was on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh.

In the study of 533 older western Pennsylvania adults and the doctors in 11 primary care practices who provided their care, physicians in six practices and their patients received reports on the patients' cognitive performance. The physicians in the other five practices and their patients did not receive this information.

Physicians who received reports on the cognitive status of their patients indicating mild cognitive impairment or possible dementia also received other information. They were informed about the patient's health status and medications that may be impacting their condition as well as reminders to check for possible reversible causes of memory loss such as a B-12 deficiency, low levels of a thyroid hormone or a drug reaction or interaction.

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

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IUSM's GRACE Team Care assists Atlanta VA Medical Center

The Indiana University School of Medicine's [GRACE Team Care™](#) recently announced the completion of a training and assistance program with the [Atlanta VA Medical Center](#). This program is part of a three-year demonstration project conducted by the medical center as it looks for better ways to provide effective outpatient care for veterans with complex chronic and psychosocial conditions.

GRACE's high-intensity care-team model is nationally recognized as offering a fresh approach for effectively managing the health and well-being of high-risk Medicare populations outside of the hospital setting. For the Atlanta VA, GRACE was engaged to apply its model to a broader population and to manage high-risk veterans in the outpatient setting utilizing an interdisciplinary, team-based approach to augment resources already available within the medical center.

Doing so included creating individualized care plans for each veteran's personal needs as identified through home visits, increased social worker support, broad telehealth support, and direct communication with emergency department and inpatient teams. Of particular focus were patients considered to be at high risk for transitions within the healthcare system from outpatient to ED/urgent care to inpatient to nursing home care (both within the VA and outside the VA).

GRACE's involvement over the past year has included intensive on-site training, hosting of webinars for Atlanta VA leadership, assisting the Atlanta VA in developing a GRACE dashboard for monitoring program implementation and quality measures, and a sustainability session in Atlanta for evaluation and strategic planning. The Atlanta VA team reported finding the training provided by the IU Geriatrics GRACE Training and Resource Center to be practical, direct and easy to implement.

[Read the full news release](#) to learn more about this project.

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Faculty and Staff News

Dept. of Radiology and Imaging Science hires director of Finance and Administration

Effective Oct. 1, Bart LeFan, MBA, MHA, will be the director of Finance and Administration in the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences at the Indiana University School of Medicine. His supervisor will be interim chairman Himanshu Shah, M.D.

LeFan comes to the IU School of Medicine from the University of Utah, where he served for seven years as the administrator for the Division of Otolaryngology, a program ranked among the top 20 of its kind in the nation. LeFan's tenure saw growth in research funding, number of providers, number of clinics and revenue. LeFan's success at the University of Utah academic medical center made him the ideal candidate for the position.

LeFan received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Lipscomb University, a master of music in vocal performance from New England Conservatory, and an MBA and MHA in healthcare administration from the University of Utah.

He has additional healthcare experience at AIM Healthcare Services, Inc., Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee and Vanderbilt Corporate Health Services. LeFan also has several healthcare administration publications.

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Fox now serving as IUSM-South Bend associate dean

Mark D. Fox, M.D., Ph.D., MPH, stepped in on Aug. 3 as the third associate dean and director of the Regional Center for Medical Education at the Indiana University School of Medicine-South Bend (IUSM-SB). He arrived just in time to greet members of the Class of 2019 on their first day of medical school.

He noted the strengths behind the IUSM-SB campus experience: a faculty frequently lauded with teaching and research awards, generous and dedicated volunteer clinical faculty, and students who have been achieving stellar scores on national boards.

Fox comes to South Bend from the University of Oklahoma (OU) School of Community Medicine in Tulsa, where he served as associate dean for community health and research development since 2008. He also was medical director of the OU Wayman Tisdale Specialty Health Clinic and associate director of the Oklahoma Bioethics Center in Tulsa. A medical ethicist and specialist in public health, Fox describes his interest as "improving the health of the community and the people in the community." Like IU, OU has a regional medical school campus system.

To read more about Fox's appointment, visit the [IUSM-SB newsroom](#).

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Thompson honored as 2015 Outstanding Physician of the Year

Mark A. Thompson, M.D., has been named the 2015 Outstanding Physician of the Year for his work with Indiana University School of Medicine-South Bend.

Thompson, who practices in South Bend with General & Vascular Surgery, has been clerkship director of IUSM-SB's surgical rotation since clinical education was introduced in 2008. He has continuously trained IUSM-SB's medical students and has closely mentored a number of students who have selected surgical careers.

Thompson earned his medical degree from the IU School of Medicine and completed his residency at The

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minn. He is an alum of IUSM-SB's two-year program.

Thompson and his wife, Meg, are two-time chairs of the Medicine Ball and underwrite the Meg and Mark Thompson Dean's Council Scholarship.

The award will be presented this year at the Medicine Ball, which takes place Saturday, Nov. 7, at Palais Royale.

The Outstanding Physician of the Year has been awarded six times, honoring physicians whose assistance has been critical to the development of IUSM-SB.

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Student News

IUSM-Terre Haute students offer free medical care at local clinic

The Mollie R. Wheat Memorial Clinic in Terre Haute, Ind., opened for its second year of providing free medical care for residents of Vigo County. The clinic is operated by medical students from the Indiana University School of Medicine-Terre Haute and the Allied Health Sciences Department at Indiana State University.

"Doctors have to learn how to be doctors somehow," said Jeremy Sherer, third-year medical student at IUSM-Terre Haute, "often times textbooks are not enough to show us that."

Students work alongside licensed professionals like John Wheat, M.D., MPH, the originator of the idea of this clinic and a 2013 graduate of the IU School of Medicine. Wheat was a member of the Rural Medicine Program at IUSM-Terre Haute when he realized a need for improved medical care for local residents. What started as an idea turned into a reality as the students that came after Wheat continued work on the project. The clinic was named after Wheat's mother, Mollie, who passed away from breast cancer while he was in medical school.

The Mollie R. Wheat Memorial Clinic is open on the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon. The clinic is located at 1433 N. 6 1/2 Street in Terre Haute.

[Visit the official website](#) to learn more about the clinic and its services. For a video of local news coverage and additional information about the clinic's second year, visit [wthitv.com](#).

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Partner News

IU Health president/CEO Evans announces retirement; Murphy promoted to president

Indiana University Health President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel F. Evans, Jr. announced his plans for

retirement on Sept 1. Evans will relinquish his role as president but will continue to serve as the statewide health system's CEO until May 1, 2016.

As part of the succession plan, current IU Health Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dennis M. Murphy will be promoted to president of the organization, effective immediately, and become CEO as well on May 1, 2016. Murphy will continue to serve as COO until a successor is named.

[Read the full press release](#) for more information about Evans' 13 years of service with IU Health and the upcoming plans for transition.


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Opportunities

Submit RFP for Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund through Dec. 11

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (Indiana CTSI) is now accepting RFPs for the Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Fund.

The overall objective of this RFP is to foster and encourage research for the prevention, treatment and cure of spinal cord and brain injuries, including acute management, medical complications, rehabilitative techniques and neuronal recovery. Because the nature and scope of the research proposed may vary, the size of each award may also vary. Applications to this program are considered small grants and should have a maximum requested amount of \$80,000 per year. All applications should be limited to two-year duration.

Eligible principal investigators must be based in Indiana and have the education, skills, knowledge and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. Please refer to the  [competition guidelines](#) for further details on eligibility.

The deadline for submissions is Dec. 11 at 5 p.m.

Contact Tammy Sajdyk, ictsi@iu.edu, or visit the [Indiana CTSI Hub](#) for more information about the RFP or to access a submission checklist, downloadable files for interested investigators and a submission entry form.

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