



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

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Top News

New IUSM website and intranet coming in 2016

Work is underway on the new IU School of Medicine website and intranet that will launch later this year. The new website will consolidate IUSM's 100+ entities on a single domain (medicine.iu.edu) and use a single content management system with a universal Google Analytics code. Alongside the website build, the school is developing an intranet to function as a news and announcement portal for internal communications and to offer a secure platform for schoolwide collaboration.

Establishing this strong foundation for the school's digital communications will help enhance the IUSM brand, improve the user experience for IUSM's target audiences, and ensure visibility into user behavior across the website and other digital platforms.

To ensure these new communication platforms make the greatest possible impact and the school is aligned internally on the scope of this initiative and future digital communications, the IUSM Office of Strategic Communications is presenting an overview of the website and intranet work in Emerson Hall Auditorium on Thursday, Jan. 7, and again on Tuesday, Jan. 12, to accommodate schedules. A representative from each of the school's entities must attend one of the sessions. Contact Jenny Brown, IUSM digital marketing strategist, at jb56@iu.edu for details.

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Save the date: Muslim in America Town Hall is Jan. 28

Interested in learning more about the Muslim community locally and in the U.S.? Plan to attend a special town hall meeting, Muslim in America, at noon, Thursday, Jan. 28, in Walther Hall, C303/305. The featured speaker is [Edward E. Curtis](#), Millennium Chair of Liberal Arts and professor, Religious Studies, IUPUI. The hour-long presentation, sponsored by the IUSM Office of Diversity Affairs, is designed to raise the quality of dialogue surrounding the Muslim community, help enlighten individuals who want to learn more, and reaffirm IUSM as a safe place for all religious communities. To register for the event, visit faculty.medicine.iu.edu.

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Jan. 29 is deadline to nominate a faculty member for Trustees Teaching Award

The Indiana University Board of Trustees annually recognizes faculty excellence in teaching by awarding Trustees Teaching Awards. Excellence in teaching is the primary factor for selection. To nominate an IUSM colleague for this award, complete the [application](#) by Friday, Jan. 29.

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Nominate colleagues for IUSM Alumni Association awards by Jan. 15

Take time this week to nominate outstanding alumni and faculty for annual awards presented by the [IU School of Medicine Alumni Association](#). IUSM alumni may submit nominations by Friday, Jan. 15, for the following: Distinguished Medical Alumni Awards, the Early Career Achievement Award, and the Glenn W. Irwin Jr. Distinguished Faculty Award. Award descriptions and the nomination form are available at [medicine.iu.edu](#). Award winners will be honored during the Medical Alumni Weekend, May 20-21, in Indianapolis.

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Faculty and Staff News

Shekhar and Nalin named to leadership roles at IU Health

IU School of Medicine and Indiana University Health recently announced leadership changes involving IUSM faculty and staff.

[Eric S. Williams, M.D.](#), professor of medicine, has transitioned from his role as IU Health executive vice president for academic and medical affairs. Dr. Williams has been an important partner in bridging the efforts of IUSM and the health system in training the next generation of providers; developing the simulation center located at Fairbanks Hall; and spearheading innovative professional educational efforts, including a current national pilot project with the American Board of Internal Medicine.

In 2015, [Anantha Shekhar, M.D., Ph.D.](#), executive associate dean of research affairs and associate vice president for university clinical affairs for IU, was named IU Health executive vice president of academic affairs for clinical research. In this new role, Dr. Shekhar assumed the clinical research duties formerly belonging to Dr. Williams.

More recently, [Peter Nalin, M.D., FAAFP](#), executive associate dean for educational affairs, has been named executive vice president of academic affairs for education. Dr. Nalin will assume responsibility for medical student training and residencies for the health system.

In their respective roles with IU Health, both Drs. Nalin and Shekhar will report to [Jonathan Gottlieb, M.D.](#), executive vice president and chief medical executive. Dr. Gottlieb also oversees IU Health Physicians.

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Student News

Plan to attend Second Year Show and pre-event social hour on Jan. 15

Celebrate the new year with some great entertainment at the [IUSM Class of 2018's Second Year Show, "The Magic of Medicine,"](#) on Friday, Jan. 15. The show, a blend of comedy and satire portraying medical school through the eyes of the IUSM community, will take place at 7 pm in the Egyptian Room at Old National Centre, 502 N. New Jersey St., in Indianapolis.

Venture downtown early at 5 pm for a social hour sponsored by the IUSM Office of Diversity Affairs. This pre-show event, including free food and giveaways, will be held at The Rathskeller, 401 E. Michigan St., just a couple of blocks from Old National Centre.

Tickets for the Second Year Show are \$13 for students and \$17 for alumni and the general public, and are available at iusm2ys.com. Check out a [preview](#) of the show.

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Research News

Alzheimer's risk genes linked to brain atrophy, promise future blood markers

Two genetic variants previously linked to Alzheimer's disease have been more specifically tied to brain atrophy that is characteristic of the disease.

A newly reported study, led by [Liana Apostolova, M.D.](#), IU School of Medicine Barbara and Peer Baekgaard Professor of Alzheimer's Disease Research, also found that the proteins produced by the genes and circulating in the blood were associated with the brain atrophy and could be used in Alzheimer's-related tests in the future.

The study is believed to be the first to directly link common variants of the genes -- ABCA7 and MA4A6A -- to atrophy in cortical and hippocampal regions of the brain, which are associated with memory and other key functions.

"We also found that the levels of the protein products of these genes, circulating in the peripheral blood, were associated with the cortical and hippocampal atrophy. This finding suggests that those results of gene expression could become useful biomarker blood tests for Alzheimer's disease," Dr. Apostolova said.

The study was published in the advance online edition of the journal *Neurobiology of Aging*. For more information, see the [press release in the IUSM Newsroom](#).

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Opportunities

Faculty needed to serve as statewide curriculum consultants

To ensure all disciplines are fully integrated in IUSM's new systems-based courses, [Medical Student Education](#) is seeking faculty members to serve as consultants to the Statewide Course Implementation

Teams (CITs) in the following disciplines: histology, medical genetics, pathology, pharmacology, and physiology.

Responsibilities of statewide curriculum consultants

Statewide curriculum consultants are responsible, together with statewide course directors and campus-level site leaders, for evaluating IUSM student learning activities within their respective disciplines. Statewide curriculum consultants will collaborate with the CITs to:

- evaluate the quality of discipline-related educational goals and objectives, including course content and assessments.
- maintain an integrated educational experience for students to meet IUSM learning objectives.
- plan and organize (with course faculty) relevant materials for scheduled activities, programs, or orientations.
- pursue opportunities to disseminate educational innovations, including research and novel curricular materials.

Responsibility, authority, and reporting structure

Statewide curriculum consultants are appointed by the executive associate dean for educational affairs with input from the senior associate dean for medical student education, center directors, and department chairs. Statewide curriculum consultants are appointed for three years with renewable terms. Total time commitment is expected to be about one-half day per week. An annual allocation will be provided to the department/unit to support the consultant's work.


How to apply

Submit a CV and letter of interest, detailing how your experiences fit the responsibilities of the role, to Maureen Harrington, Ph.D., assistant dean of curriculum Phase 1, at mharrin@iu.edu. Applications will be accepted until January 14, and interviews will begin immediately following.

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HIV prevention workshops begin Jan. 21; several scheduled statewide

The recent HIV crisis in rural Indiana has forged the need for clinicians to continue learning and conducting research to respond to and help prevent new cases of HIV infection.

 **“Building Comprehensive HIV Prevention, Testing and Care Capacity in Rural Communities”** workshops are scheduled in January and February around the state and in Kentucky to bring together local clinicians, nurses, mental health professionals, rural infectious disease specialists, and primary care physicians to optimize care for those living with HIV, injection drug use, and/or opioid abuse. In addition, healthcare professionals will be able to explore best practices in screening for HIV, HCV and STI during routine care. The workshops are presented by the IU School of Medicine, Med-IQ and the National Rural Health Association Services Corporation.


Workshop schedule

Thursday, Jan. 21: St. Mary's Medical Center, Evansville

Thursday, Feb. 4: IU Kokomo

Thursday, Feb. 18: General Butler State Park, Carrollton, Kentucky

Friday, Feb. 26: IU Southeast, New Albany

The workshops are free. [Learn more and register](#) online. With questions, contact Danielle Kanipe, 317.274.0156  or dlkanipe@iu.edu.

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Partner News

Indy Star article highlights what's so special about Colts' Pagano

"He's got a heart as big as Wyoming," said Dr. Pat Loehrer, director of the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center. "As a coach, he put a face to cancer, and the face is one with integrity and compassion and passion to help others."

Read more from this week's [Indianapolis Star article](#) about Indianapolis Colts Coach Chuck Pagano, who after winning his own battle with leukemia, has helped raise millions for cancer research and has been both role model and friend to others fighting cancer.

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