



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

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Top News

Showalter Scholars class of 2016 selected

Four scientists have been named Showalter Scholars by the IU School of Medicine, the fourth class in the program created to recognize and reward successful young researchers at the school.

The recipients are:

- Carmella Evans-Molina, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of medicine. The long range goal of the Evans-Molina lab is to define the pathways that govern beta cell function in states of health in order to understand how these regulatory circuits are impaired in the pathologic state of Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

- Yunlong Liu, Ph.D., associate professor of medical and molecular biology. Dr. Liu is recognized nationally for his research accomplishments in the area of computational genomics.
- Andy Qigui Yu, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology and immunology. Dr. Yu's laboratory focuses on the immunopathology of HIV infection, and the clinical and immunological interactions between HIV and other human persistent viruses like HCV.
- Tamara Hannon, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics in the section of pediatric endocrinology/diabetology at Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health. Dr. Hannon has expertise in patient-oriented clinical research in youth with obesity, conditions of insulin resistance, and diabetes. Dr. Hannon is actively involved in teaching all levels of trainees, both clinically and in research science.

The program, supported in part by the Ralph W. and Grace M. Showalter Research Trust Fund, was created to support faculty whose scientific expertise and productivity have resulted in significant contributions to the IU School of Medicine and the greater research community.

Showalter Scholars receive \$25,000 per year for three years, with the first year funded by the Showalter Trust, the second year by their academic department and the third year by the school. An additional set of Showalter Scholars is selected each year.

Showalter Scholars are limited to full-time IU School of Medicine faculty who are either an associate professor or have held the rank of professor for no more than one year.

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Curriculum info sessions for faculty and staff underway

Information sessions designed to provide faculty and staff with current details about IUSM's new curriculum kicked off this morning. Hosted by the IUSM curriculum leadership team, the 45-minute sessions open with a 15-minute progress overview with the remaining time devoted to Q&A. Facilitated through Adobe Connect, the meetings are open to faculty and staff at all IUSM campuses.

Plan to attend one of the two remaining sessions:

Thursday, June 30; 2 pm – Bradley Allen, M.D., Ph.D., and Maureen Harrington, Ph.D.

Thursday, July 7; 4 pm – Bradley Allen, M.D., Ph.D., and Derron Bishop, Ph.D.

Questions may be submitted in advance at iusm@indiana.edu. To participate in the sessions, go to <https://connect.iu.edu/curriculuminfo/>. Instructions for logging on are available at medicine.iu.edu/roadtoaccreditation.

Questions and responses from all sessions will be compiled and shared in mid-July via InScope and MedNet.

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Faculty and Staff News

Mastracci is IBRI's first independent investigator

The Indiana Biosciences Research Institute (IBRI) has hired Teresa Mastracci, Ph.D., assistant research professor of pediatrics, IU School of Medicine, as the first independent investigator to begin innovative scientific research in the institute's new laboratories.

Dr. Mastracci's research focuses on finding ways to provoke regeneration of the insulin-producing beta cells that are dysfunctional or destroyed in people with diabetes. This research will produce new diabetes treatment options and will potentially identify ways to slow or even halt progression of the disease.

"Teresa is a bright, up and coming researcher in the area of beta cell biology and will now be pursuing her research interests as a senior scientist," said Dr. Raghu Mirmira, interim chief scientific officer and core laboratories director for the IBRI. "She has been funded at every stage of her career, and already has an impressive body of research. We look forward to seeing her expand and apply her research in ways that will ultimately help patients."

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Investigators required to complete GCP training beginning July 1

The National Institutes of Health's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) is leading an initiative to promote Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training to ensure investigators who conduct clinical trials are appropriately trained. Indiana CTSI supports this training initiative as an essential step toward further ensuring the protection of trial participants and the quality of clinical trial results.

Accordingly, the Institutional Review Board (IRB) will require **Good Clinical Practices (GCP) training for principal investigators and co-principal investigators beginning July 1, 2016, for interventional clinical studies**. Interventional clinical studies are defined as studies in which interventions are assigned in order to assess biomedical or health-related outcomes.

New interventional clinical studies and renewals of interventional clinical studies submitted after July 1 will invoke this training requirement. For the purposes of consistency and tracking, GCP training must be completed through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) program. CITI GCP training is valid for three years, and CITI GCP training completed within the last three years will be accepted. A GCP refresher course is now available in CITI for expired GCP courses. Sponsors may accept completion of CITI GCP training in lieu of sponsor-provided GCP training.

To complete GCP training in the CITI program, visit the [IU CITI program log-in page](#).

With questions, contact Chris Seago Caldwell, CTSI Regulatory Knowledge and Support Program, at csego@iu.edu.

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Logan's expertise highlighted during Cancer Immunotherapy Month

Theodore Logan, M.D., IU School of Medicine associate professor of clinical medicine, specializes in

immunotherapy, a treatment for cancer. His work is featured in an [IU Simon Cancer Center article](#) in recognition of Cancer Immunotherapy Month. While a lesser known cancer treatment, immunotherapy is drawing greater attention thanks to its ability to completely eradicate certain forms of cancer such as melanoma and renal cancer – even when the diseases have metastasized.

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Research News

Scientists ID biomarkers that predict graft-versus-host disease after stem cell transplants

Researchers have identified biomarkers that could serve to predict which patients are more likely to be affected by chronic graft-versus-host disease following stem cell transplants. The identification of the four-biomarker panel could impact early detection and eventually treatment of the disease.

Chronic graft-versus-host disease remains the most common long-term complication of allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation -- the transplant of stem cells from one person to another. Allogeneic transplants are used to treat blood and bone marrow cancers such as leukemia and multiple myeloma, often as a last resort. Graft-versus-host disease occurs when immune cells from the transplant interpret the patient's body as foreign and attack it. Chronic graft-versus-host disease occurs in up to 70 percent of patients who survive 100 days past transplant, and is also the leading cause of non-relapse mortality.

The biomarkers were identified and validated by a national team of researchers comprising the Chronic Graft-Versus-Host Disease Consortium, including study co-lead author, Sophie Paczesny, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pediatrics and immunology at the IU School of Medicine. The study was published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

To learn more, visit the [IUSM Newsroom](#).

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Study: Young African-American adults less susceptible to delirium in ICU

The first study to evaluate the relationship between race and intensive care unit delirium has found that African-American ICU patients age 18 to 50 are less susceptible to delirium than similarly aged Caucasians or than either African-American or Caucasian ICU patients age 50 or older.

Delirium is a state of confusion that comes on suddenly and is associated with longer ICU and hospital stays, increased costs of care and higher death rate. Known risk factors for developing delirium in the ICU include age, pre-existing cognitive impairment, and sedation (often used in conjunction with mechanical ventilation). Prior to the new study by researchers from the Regenstrief Institute and the IU Center for Aging Research, the relationship between race and delirium had not been systematically evaluated.

"Relationship between African-American Race and Delirium in the Intensive Care Unit" was published online ahead of print in the journal *Critical Care Medicine*.

"Since African-Americans tend to have higher disease severity in the ICU, we were surprised to find that race

could be a protective factor for younger African-American adults," said Regenstrief Institute investigator and IU Center for Aging Research scientist Babar A. Khan, M.D., the first author of the study.

"We now know that race should be considered among the risk factors for developing delirium for Caucasians of all ages but only for African-Americans if they are 50 or older. Clearly, different groups have different risk profiles for delirium."

For more, visit the [IUSM Newsroom](#).

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Opportunities

Register and submit abstracts for IU Center for Diabetes & Metabolic Diseases symposium

Join diabetes, metabolism and obesity researchers on Friday, Aug. 5, for the second annual research symposium. The event will take place in Walther Hall (R3) on the IUPUI campus.

In addition to plenary talks and a poster competition, the full-day symposium will include keynote presentations from Charles Burant, M.D., the Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Professor of Metabolism, University of Michigan; and Juleen Zierath, Ph.D., professor of integrative physiology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Abstracts must be submitted by Friday, July 8. Prizes will be awarded for the top posters from graduate students and post-doctoral/medical fellows.

Advance registration is required. To register or submit an abstract, visit the [2016 Research Symposium website](#).

With questions, contact islets@iu.edu.

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Grants available from Indiana Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Fund

The State of Indiana established the Indiana Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Fund to foster and encourage activity-based therapy programs for the prevention, treatment, and cure of spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries, including acute management, medical complications, rehabilitative techniques, and neuronal recovery.

Funding up to \$1 million for up to two years is available. Submit a letter of intent by Friday, Aug. 12, to Lane Coffee, Ph.D., at rlcoffee@iu.edu. For more information, visit indianactsi.org.

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Apply for Eli Lilly-Stark Neurosciences Research Fellowships

Eli Lilly and Company and Stark Neurosciences Research Institute are offering pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research fellowships in neurodegeneration. The sponsors, which include the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI), seek applicants for special pre- and post-doctoral training fellowships in translational neurodegenerative disease research. Applicants' research should be focused on age-related neurodegeneration, including Alzheimer's diseases, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, and others.


Letters of intent are due Friday, Aug. 5, and should be emailed to Lane Coffee, Ph.D., at rlcoffee@iu.edu. Full applications are due by 5 pm, Friday, Aug. 26. More information on the pre-doctoral fellowship is available [here](#). Post-doctoral fellowship information can be found [here](#).

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Announcements from the Indiana CTSI's Access Technology Program

The Indiana CTSI has negotiated an institution-wide license for **Ingenuity Pathway Analysis and Advanced Analytix** from Qiagen. The software, which can be installed on any desktop or laptop computer, provides analytical tools for high throughput data such as transcriptomics and proteomics. This license provides considerable savings for any investigator who would like to sublicense these products from CTSI. To learn more about this opportunity, visit the [Indiana CTSI website](#).

The Proteomics Core in Indianapolis has added to its list of specific mass spec-based assays. In addition to the capabilities in unbiased protein biomarker discovery (large-scale proteomic profiling), the Proteomics Core has recently developed two clinically relevant, antibody-free, mass spec-based assays. One is for the quantitative measurement of arginine/citrulline/ornithine in human plasma and the other is for ADMA/SDMA/arginine in human plasma and tissues. If interested in these assays, contact Dr. Mu Wang at muwang@iu.edu for details.

The Center for Medical Genomics can now provide microarray services using 500pg to 2ng of total RNA for RNA extracted from normal tissue samples and 2-5ng of total RNA from FFPE (formalin fixed paraffin embedded) samples. The new Affymetrix Pico protocol also works with extremely degraded RNA and is used with the standard Affymetrix microarrays. This extends transcriptome analysis to samples from limited tissues such as stem cells, sorted cells, laser capture microdissection and RNA from FFPE samples. CMG has already processed samples from investigators using laser capture and FFPE samples with good results. Affymetrix has also announced new less expensive microarrays; more information for these new microarrays will be available later this month. For more information about the new Pico protocol or new microarrays, contact Jeanette McClintick at jnmcclin@iu.edu or 317-274-8450 .

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Kudos

Tucker Edmonds named Greenwall Faculty Scholar

Brownsyne Tucker Edmonds, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, IUSM, has been selected as a Greenwall Faculty Scholar for the class of 2019. The Greenwall Faculty Scholars Program in Bioethics is a career development award enabling junior faculty members to carry out innovative bioethics research.

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Mohammed receives global cancer research award

Sulma Mohammed, Ph.D., associate professor of cancer biology in the Department of Comparative Pathobiology, Purdue Veterinary Medicine, recently received the African Diaspora Ambassador Award at the 2016 Global Health Catalyst (GHC) Summit at the Dana Farber Harvard Cancer Center. Dr. Mohammed has been the course director of medical microbiology for IU School of Medicine-West Lafayette since 2002.

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Mitra awarded Schreiber Research Prize

Anirban Mitra, Ph.D., assistant professor of medical and molecular genetics, IU School of Medicine Medical Sciences Program, was awarded the Schreiber Research Prize for Outstanding Mentored Investigators from the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance.

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Partner News

IU Health Physicians announces Physician Alignment Council membership

As the implementation of the Enterprise Alignment work progresses, IU Health Physicians has announced the members of the Physician Alignment Council (PAC).

The Physician Alignment Council is a forum to promote cross-departmental and cross-entity collaboration and conduct planning on strategic, operational, and financial matters across the Indianapolis metropolitan region. The PAC will provide a structure for discussion, input, and decision making on topics that impact patients, physicians, and team members.

Ex-officio members:

- **John Fitzgerald, M.D.** – President , IU Health Physicians – Chair, Physician Alignment Council
- **Richard Chadderton** – Senior Vice President of Strategy and Engagement, IU Health
- **Jonathan Gottlieb, M.D.** – Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, IU Health
- **Ryan Nagy, M.D.** – President (interim), IU Health Methodist and University Hospitals

Appointed members:

- **Wade Clapp, M.D.**
- **Elaine Cox, M.D.**
- **Gary Dunnington, M.D.**
- **Mark Geraci, M.D.**
- **Gregory Kiray, M.D.**
- **Patrick Loehrer, M.D.**
- **Jeffrey Peipert, M.D.**
- **Doug Puckett, MBA**
- **Himanshu Shah, M.D.**
- **Anthony Sorkin, M.D.**

Over 100 people showed interest in serving on the PAC which is an important sign of physicians' desire to be involved and influence the future of IU Health Physicians.

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Riley at IU Health gets grown up name for its growing pediatric health care system

Riley Children's Health is the new and official name of the pediatric health care system that spans locations and services across the Hoosier state. The change, effective earlier this month, reflects an evolution of the Riley name – a more “grown up” name, if you will.

For decades, the Riley name has been synonymous with the highly skilled care for kids offered at the downtown Indianapolis hospital location.

But now – with a statewide network of pediatric services that includes 19 communities and more than 200 primary care and 400 specialty care physicians – the name needs to reflect what Riley really is: A comprehensive pediatric health system that treats kids in a variety of locations.

Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health will still be known by that name. Riley Children's Health is the name for the array of pediatric health care services that are offered to kids, both inside and outside the Indy hospital's walls. The new name lets families know they're getting the same standard of care at locations across Indiana.

Check out details on a new website at rileychildrens.org.

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Around Campus

Indy – Indiana Health Workforce Summit is next Wednesday

The [Bowen Center for Health Workforce and Research Policy](#) will host the Indiana Health Workforce Summit on Wednesday, June 29, from 8 am to 4 pm at University Tower.

The health workforce forms the intersection of science and health care delivery, and it's a crucial element in efforts to improve quality of care and control of health care spending. Delivery system reforms cannot succeed without attention to the workforce that will carry out the changes. This summit will allow attendees to provide feedback on current health workforce data visualization initiatives.

This course offers 6.25 CME credits for IU School of Medicine faculty. Download the flyer to learn more about the summit and its course objectives. To register, visit the [Division of Continuing Medical Education](#) webpage.

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Indy – IUPUI unveils new digital campus map

Eager for a mobile-friendly way to get around IUPUI? IU Communications, University Information Technology Services and other partners have rolled out a digital campus map for the downtown Indy campus. IUPUI is the first IU campus to unveil its new digital version, but other campuses will soon be added to the list.

For more details, visit [Inside IUPUI](#).

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