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Top News

- **Holiday, exam prep time extended for 2017-2018 academic calendar**

Learners will have extended holiday and examination preparation time as part of recently approved changes to the IU School of Medicine 2017-18 [academic calendar](#).

Adjustments approved by the Curriculum Council Steering Committee (CCSC) extend winter break by one week, with an additional week added for Step 1 preparation in spring 2018.

Prompted by curriculum renewal, the calendar adjustment additionally supports student well-being and exam readiness. Student input was an important consideration in making the adjustment, explained Bradley Allen, MD, PhD, senior associate dean for medical education and CCSC co-chair.

“An extra holiday week offers a much-needed respite from the demands of medical school. Both the holiday time and the additional preparation time for Step 1 were requested by students and have been well received,” noted Dr. Allen, who shared the news with the medical student council at its mid-November meeting.

2017-2018 Academic Calendar Extensions

Holiday: Dec. 16-Jan. 7

Exam Preparation: March 3-April 6

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Research News

- **Adding ADHD drug to therapy improves traumatic brain injury outcomes**

A combination of the stimulant drug methylphenidate with a process known as cognitive-behavioral rehabilitation is a promising option to help people who suffer from persistent cognitive problems following traumatic brain injury, researchers at [Indiana University School of Medicine](#) have reported.

The study, believed to be the first to systematically compare the combination therapy to alternative treatments, [was published online](#) in the journal Neuropsychopharmacology, a Nature publication.

The researchers, led by Brenna McDonald, PsyD, associate professor of radiology and imaging sciences, and Thomas McAllister, MD, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, compared the effectiveness of two forms of cognitive therapy with and without the use of methylphenidate, a drug used to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and better known by its trade name, Ritalin.

"We found that the combination of methylphenidate and Memory and Attention Adaptation Training resulted in significantly better results in attention, episodic and working memory, and executive functioning after traumatic brain injury," said Dr. McDonald.

More details about this study are available in the [IU School of Medicine Newsroom](#).

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- **High-dose chemo with stem cell transplant cures most relapsed testis cancers**

Sixty percent of men whose testicular cancer returned were cured with high-dose chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant, according to research published by Indiana University researchers.

Researchers, led by Lawrence Einhorn, MD, IU Distinguished Professor and Livestrong Foundation Professor of Oncology at the IU School of Medicine and a researcher at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center, found that high-dose chemotherapy with carboplatin and etoposide followed by a stem cell transplant using the patients' own peripheral blood stem cells cured 60 percent of the men, even those with aggressive and advanced disease.

The research was published online in the [Journal of Clinical Oncology](#).

"Our study shows that high-dose chemotherapy and autologous peripheral-blood stem cell transplant is very effective at curing patients with relapsed testicular cancer," Dr. Einhorn and colleagues wrote.

Find more information about this study in the [IU School of Medicine Newsroom](#).

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- **Occupational therapy unable to delay Alzheimer's patients' functional decline**

In the first study to investigate whether two years of in-home occupational therapy might help those with Alzheimer's disease delay the loss of their physical function, researchers from the Indiana Center for Aging Research and the Regenstrief Institute have found that occupational therapy tailored to the individual patient's needs did not delay the loss of everyday functions such as walking, eating, bathing and toileting.

"Persons with dementia face a steady decline in function that we found is not slowed by home-based occupational therapy," said study corresponding author Christopher M. Callahan, MD, founding director of the IU Center for Aging Research and a Regenstrief Institute investigator. "The participants in the study declined both mentally and functionally as the neurodegeneration of the brain continued. This is a disappointing outcome because previously published but shorter-term studies had suggested these interventions might be able to slow the physical decline that leads to nursing home placement."

For more on the study, visit the [IU School of Medicine Newsroom](#).

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Student News

- **Class of 2020 takes on #MannequinChallenge**

Recently, Indianapolis students from the class of 2020 took on the Mannequin Challenge, the latest viral video trend to dominate social media.

When Antwione Haywood, PhD, assistant dean of medical student education, and the class of 2020 student officers proposed the mannequin challenge to their peers, it was met with enthusiasm. According to Morgan Sandelski, a class officer, it was not only a few minutes of fun, but also an opportunity to support one another through tough times in medical school.

“We are always on the move 24/7, so an opportunity to pause puts the immediate stress associated with medical education on the backburner for that moment. We believe that three-minute break from the chaos of having to study, going to lecture or lab, is sometimes all we need to remind ourselves that we are not robots,” said Cindy Abam, one of the class officers.

In the [video](#), students held some impressive poses that included a handstand, selfie, foosball players and ping pong competitors. “Our class is pretty strong and cohesive--very open to taking on all kinds of challenges, whether it be a new curriculum or something as unconventional and quirky as a mannequin challenge,” added Abam.

The Indianapolis students have challenged students from the other eight campuses to post their take on the Mannequin Challenge.

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- **Laughs in store at Jan. 13 Second Year Show**

“Jason Finds His Funny Bone” is the title of this year’s Indiana University School of Medicine Second Year Show. Presented by second-year students, the Friday, Jan. 13, event will begin at 7:30 pm at Madame Walker Theater Center in downtown Indianapolis. [Tickets](#) are \$10 for students and \$15 for all others.

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Opportunities

- **Indiana CTSI predoctoral training award applications due Dec. 12**

Monday, Dec. 12, is the deadline for graduate students interested in translational research to submit applications for the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) predoctoral training awards.

Eligible translational research may involve applying discoveries made during work in a lab, developing clinical trials and studies in humans, or carrying out research aimed at enhancing best practices. Candidates must have completed at least one year of a predoctoral training program, but cannot have completed more than their third year. Funding is for two years. Benefits include a stipend, as well as health insurance and partial coverage of tuition and fees.

Interested candidates must be prescreened for eligibility by submitting copies of their CVs to Colleen Gabauer at ictsi@purdue.edu. More information is available at indianaactsi.org. Awards will start July 1, 2017.

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- **Apply for Indiana CTSI postdoctoral training awards by Jan. 13**

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) postdoctoral training awards in translational research provide promising postdoctoral fellows the opportunity to be mentored in research-intensive, multi-disciplinary settings to prepare for careers in translational research.

Translational research is commonly referred to as "bench to bedside," the process by which research in the lab translates into patient treatment. Translational research may involve applying discoveries made during work in a lab, developing clinical trials and studies in humans or carrying out research aimed at enhancing best practices.

Candidates for these awards must be from IUPUI, Indiana University-Bloomington, Purdue University-West Lafayette or University of Notre Dame and be a U.S. citizen or have permanent resident status. Additional eligibility requirements and information about the application process are available at indianactsi.org. Application deadline is 5 pm, Friday, Jan. 13.

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- **Jan. 17 deadline to apply for Indiana CTSI young investigator awards**

Junior investigator faculty interested in further developing their careers in clinical-translational research are encouraged to apply for the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) young investigator awards. Awards include the opportunity to be mentored in research-intensive multi-disciplinary settings. Clinical research includes epidemiological studies, clinical trials or other investigations involving human subjects. Translational research consists of either "T1 research" (interface of basic science to human studies) or "T2 research" (interface of human studies to the community).

Benefits include partial salary support, as well as tuition and fees for required and elective coursework, pilot research monies and travel funds to attend the national CTSI young investigator meeting. Eligibility requirements and application details are available at indianactsi.org. Application deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 17, and awards will begin July 1, 2017. With general questions, contact Donna Burgett at dfburget@regenstrief.org.

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Kudos

- **Mahomed honored with Sagamore of the Wabash award**

Yousuf Mahomed, MD, Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Indiana University School of Medicine, has received Indiana's highest civilian honor, the Sagamore of the Wabash. Bestowed by the governor, the award is "given to those who have rendered a distinguished service to the state or the governor."

Dr. Mahomed served as professor of surgery at IU School of Medicine for more than three decades. He was one of the principal members of the team that started the cardiac transplant program and was an early pioneer in minimally invasive cardiac surgery, arrhythmia surgery and beating-heart surgery. He remains actively involved with IU School of Medicine and is a 2015 graduate of the IU Kelley School of Business Business of Medicine MBA program.

Read more in [Inside IUPUI](#).

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Around Campus

- **Indy – Season of Giving is here**

IUPUI is gearing up for its 19th annual Season of Giving. By adopting a near-westside family and purchasing presents, you can spread some holiday cheer to those who might not have it otherwise.

This year's partners are the Christamore House and Hawthorne Center. [To participate, download, fill out and then email the form](#) to Richard Bray of the Office of Community Engagement at richbray@iupui.edu. Submit forms no later than Monday, Dec. 5, to allow time for a family match and shopping. If you have any questions, contact Bray at richbray@iupui.edu.

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Partner News

- **Ingram shares IU Health Physicians successes in video message**

Serving as IU Health Physicians chief medical officer since Oct. 1, David Ingram, MD, Hugh McK. Landon Professor of Pediatrics, IU School of Medicine, highlights the organization's 2016 successes in research and education, and previews future opportunities in this [video](#).

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- **Regenstrief's incoming president named chair-elect of AMIA board**

Peter J. Embi, MD, MS, who joins the Regenstrief Institute as president and CEO on Dec. 15, has been selected as the chair-elect of the board of directors of the American Medical Informatics Association, the largest international professional biomedical and health informatics association. The four-year term includes a one-year term as chair-elect, two years as the chair of the association's 21-person board of directors, and a final year as chair-emeritus.

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- **IU Health signs lease to operate Frankfort Hospital**

Indiana University Health has signed a lease agreement with Clinton County (Indiana) to assume operations of Frankfort Hospital, starting June 1, 2017.

The agreement was approved last month during a special joint meeting of the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and Clinton County Council. IU Health agreed to a five-year lease with renewal options for the 25-bed, critical access, county-owned hospital and affiliated medical offices.

The hospital will join IU Health Arnett and White Memorial Hospitals in the IU Health West Central Region (WCR) and be managed by the WCR leadership team. IU Health has had a presence in Frankfort for more than 15 years with a primary care medical office.

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