



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
INDIANA CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL
SCIENCES INSTITUTE
School of Medicine

June 27, 2011

TO: Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Indiana University Trustees
Indiana University – Purdue University of Indianapolis Graduate Committee
Indiana University Bloomington Academic Leadership Committee

RE: R. Mark Payne, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics (Cardiology)

On behalf of the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (ICTSI), R. Mark Payne, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics in IUSM's Department of Pediatrics, has prepared a proposal for Master's Degree in Translational Science Program. The Translational Science Program of Indiana (TSPI) is designed to allow for cross-pollination of ideas between scientists in basic and clinical research by utilizing the wealth of resources available through IUSM and the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (ICTSI); thus, providing the foundation for translational research. As one of the specific aims listed on our CTSA grant, the TSPI provides the means of training future translational researchers for our state. Furthermore, by opening the program to all interested 4th year medical students, fellows, junior faculty as well as all life sciences graduate students, collaborative research opportunities will open among the partnering institutions (Indiana University – Purdue University of Indianapolis, Indiana School of Medicine, Indiana University Bloomington, and Purdue University) in addition to other entities within the region as they join the ICTSI.

In an effort to make the training more accessible to individuals at various stages of their careers, TSPI students will be able to choose from options ranging from coursework, a minor, a graduate certificate in Translational Science, or a Master of Science in Translational Science. Building upon existing collaborative relationships among Purdue University, Indiana University, IUPUI, and several public and private organizations, the Translational Science program will produce scientists and physicians who are able to operate at the interface between basic and clinical investigative medicine. As the Associate Dean for Translational Research, I enthusiastically write in support of this proposal.

ICTSI is committed to the long-term success of the TSPI and will commit necessary resources, faculty and staff time to develop and maintain the program. Because an understanding of basic science and clinical medicine is essential to translational research, we believe the TSPI will provide a common academic system that will allow both physician and basic scientists to advance their careers in translational science. Therefore, I urge you to give this proposal your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Anantha Shekhar, MD, PhD
Director, Indiana CTSI
Raymond E. Houk Professor and Associate Dean for Research
Indiana University School of Medicine