



**DEPARTMENT OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL AND
BRAIN SCIENCES**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Bloomington

June 24, 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)
Translational Science Program of Indiana

This letter is to confirm the interest of the Indiana University Bloomington in your proposed the Translational Science Program of Indiana (TSPI) which is to provide graduate training for basic and clinical investigators. IU Bloomington has a strong interest in clinical translational science, especially pre-and postdoctoral training opportunities in this area because translational research is an increasingly important avenue for scientific discovery and transfer of basic knowledge to human care. Your program will permit us to provide cutting-edge training to our current students as well as attract new translational scientists.

Investigators at Indiana University Bloomington are consistently funded by NIH/NCI, NIH/NIDR, and foundation/industry support. Translational investigator training has been a significant challenge. To date, it has been provided primarily by individual instruction and mentoring by experienced translational investigators, and by scientists serving as secondary investigators in controlled trials to develop both experience and credibility. These junior investigators also attended existing graduate courses in biostatistics and clinical research methodologies. However, more extensive training in translational tools and techniques, research ethics, grantsmanship, manuscript writing, and scientific presentations was not possible and was acquired only through experience – often incidental experiences.

Thus, the existence of the proposed Translational Science Training Program will not only provide a much more intensive and complete background for junior translational investigators, but it will also provide a much higher quality of training in a much more efficient manner. As a result we anticipate that some of our research-oriented graduate students in the basic sciences and applied science will take advantage of this program to prepare for a career in translational research. Postdoctoral students and research scientists might also appreciate the opportunity to specialize in this exciting area. Therefore, we strongly support the proposed program and hope that it will be given favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

William P. Hetrick, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychological and Brian Sciences, Neuroscience, and of Psychiatry
Director. Bloomington Office of the Indiana Clinical Translational Science Institute