



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Office of the Dean

July 19, 2010

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 University School of Medicine (IUSM), R. Mark Payne, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics in IUSM's Department of Pediatrics, has prepared a proposal for the Translational Science Program of Indiana (TSPI). The Translational Science Program of Indiana (TSPI) is designed to allow physicians and medical students in training to integrate translational research into their training utilizing the wealth of resources available through IUSM and the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (ICTSI).

As Dean of the IUSM and on behalf of its basic and clinical sciences faculty and departmental chairs, I enthusiastically support this proposal. Specifics of the program are detailed in the proposal itself, but the long-term goal is to establish a training program to address the critical need for generating translational research scientists who are able to operate at the interface between basic and clinical investigative medicine. Operationally, the program will be open to all interested 4th year medical students, fellows, junior faculty, and ultimately all life sciences graduate students, including those of the IUSM in Indianapolis and Bloomington, at Indiana University - Purdue Indianapolis (IUPUI), and at Purdue University in West Lafayette. TSPI students will be able to choose from options ranging from coursework, a minor, a graduate certificate in molecular medicine, or a Master of Science in Translational Science.

This program builds upon existing collaborative relationships with Purdue (i.e., the M.D. / Ph.D. program) and IUPUI (interdisciplinary cross-campus Ph.D. programs in medical neuroscience, biophysics, and biomolecular imaging). The TSPI fits well with the developing strengths of the CTSI, and represents a University commitment to develop translational training programs as detailed in the CTSI application. The IUSM is committed to the long-term success of the TSPI and will commit necessary faculty and staff time to develop and maintain the program. Because an understanding of translational medicine is fundamental to all life sciences researchers, including both physicians and basic scientists, it is clear that the TSPI program will provide a common academic system which will allow students and trainees to move forward with careers in translational science. Therefore, I urge you to give this proposal your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

D. Craig Brater, M.D.
Dean and Walter J. Daly Professor