



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

July 20, 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)

Dear Review Committee,

As the Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, I am writing to express my strong support of the training program entitled, the Translational Science Program of Indiana (TSPI), submitted by Dr. Payne. This translational research program will blend in beautifully with the Indiana CTSI, extending earlier educational offerings in translational research, and represents a training commitment within the original Indiana CTSI. If approved, this program will broadly benefit the many medical and life sciences students in our programs at the Indiana and Purdue University campuses, including physicians in training.

I am supportive of this program, which will provide an avenue for interdisciplinary collaboration between clinical and basic scientists. The program will bolster the basic science background of physicians who want to work in translational research, while providing a clinical immersion experience for Ph.D. graduate students in our departments. We fully support this concept and will work with Dr. Payne to help structure appropriate, supervised rotations for the students. We will also help to identify appropriate faculty to provide clinical mentorship for the students.

This is an important and exciting program that will increase collaborations between our multiple departments, campuses, and faculty in ways that advance translational research both here, and nationally. By awarding a Minor, a Graduate Certificate, or a Master of Science degree in Translational Science to these students, the value of their dual degrees and training will be markedly increased. This will continue to maintain high quality students in our programs and provide leaders in future translational research programs. We look forward to beginning work on this program.

Sincerely,

David W. Crabb, MD
John B. Hickam Professor
of Medicine
Chair, Dept. of Medicine

Indiana University – Purdue University, Indianapolis