

June 29, 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)

Review Committee,

The Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering at Purdue University is pleased to be a contributing partner to the Translational Science Program of Indiana (TSPI) described in this proposal being submitted by Dr. Payne. We were immediately supportive of this new proposal given the successes of our previous and ongoing collaborations with the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM), especially around our Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) and the new Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI). The proximity of our campuses, the many strong research collaborations, and the fact that many of our faculty and students already utilize the Indianapolis campus as a critical base, make this an extremely feasible curricular complement. The curricular program will be greatly facilitated also by the extant mechanisms for efficient communication and educational delivery between the two campuses which currently serve our two joint doctoral programs.

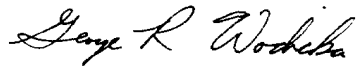
The translational and cross-disciplinary nature of the research and educational programs of the Weldon School require that our graduate students have direct and repeated exposure to clinical mentors, collaborators, and medical educational training. At the inception of our doctoral program we established a requirement for such clinical exposure. We are very excited that the TSPI program will offer biomedical engineers the opportunity to train side-by-side with biomedical scientists and physician scientists in very objective-based experiences, including projects and workshops. The multiple clinical and translational arenas proposed will match well with the diversity of interests of our biomedical engineering students. We are convinced that in order for our students to become the next generation of leaders in translating medical devices and technologies, they absolutely need to understand how to comprehensively conduct research in clinical settings. This must include learning how to participate in multi-disciplinary teams, how to develop and implement effective therapeutic interventions, and how to collaboratively establish quantitative endpoints for clinical outcomes, which are all components of this program.

We have a long-term commitment to this proposed program's success and will provide resources in support of our students participating in this program if needed. We believe strongly that our students will benefit enormously from the training offered in the TSPI program. This integrated and additional training will not only make our exceptional engineers uniquely able to contribute to

critical clinical programs in their career, but will greatly impact their research focus even during their graduate studies.

As Head of the Weldon School, I assure you that the curricular program described in this proposal has our full and enthusiastic support. We are confident that the implementation will be successful and that the educational outcomes of the all of the schools involved will be very positively impacted.

Sincerely,



George R. Wodicka
Professor and Head