

Indiana CTSI offers new master's degree in translational science

To further its mission to strengthen research by providing new opportunities to educate trainees and engage faculty in translational science, the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) will offer a Master's program in Translational Science. The 30-credit hour program will begin spring 2012.

The objective of this new program is to jointly train scientists, engineers, and physicians or clinicians in the methodology of translational research (basic science and medicine working to advance care for patients). This interdisciplinary program targets individuals, including clinical fellows and junior faculty, who've completed a terminal degree or equivalent in a clinical science area (e.g., M.D., D.N.S., D.D.S., D.V.M). Participants will be prepared to seek academic and industry careers as translational scientists—as well as enhance their ability to participate in multi-disciplinary teams pursuing translational research projects.

"Employers in the field of research and development need new scientists and physicians with the skills necessary to design and conduct basic and translational research focused on human health issues," said R. Mark Payne, MD, professor of pediatrics and medical and molecular genetics at the IU School of Medicine, who serves as degree program director.

"This program will provide our graduates with an edge by providing them with needed experience and a greater training in translational research."

Courses include "Tools and Techniques in Translational Research" (GRAD-G667 - Fall), an advanced class designed to expose students to some of the many components necessary for translational research. Experts representing a wide spectrum of sciences will walk trainees through the process of moving a novel concept from the lab to a patient. Trainees will learn about multiple research techniques as well as how other sciences view this process.

The curriculum also features a weekly seminar series, "Quantitative Aspects in Translational Research" (GRAD-G668 - Spring), that provides participants the opportunity to work together in learning both the key concepts and principles required to develop medically relevant solutions. Additional degree requirements include courses in biostatistics, research ethics, grant writing and electives deemed relevant by the program director. Enrollees may select electives from graduate courses at IUSM, IUPUI or IU-Bloomington.

The program's final component is an organized translational research project conducted under dual mentorship (MD and PhD) by faculty. This capstone experience requires completion of a thesis based upon the research conducted during this project.

"This program is a natural outgrowth of the Indiana CTSI," said Dr. Payne. "An overall goal of this training program is to produce exceptional translational researchers in a fashion that saves both time and expense when compared to more conventional training routes."

To review the complete course requirements, see www.indianactsi.org/site/courses/mstranssciprogram081211.pdf.

To apply, contact Carrie Hansel, program coordinator, at cahansel@iupui or (317) 278-5842.

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