

[Home](#) ▶ [About Us](#) ▶ [About: Story Archives](#) ▶

About: Story Archives - January 1, 2001-December 31, 2001

Dec 10 - Bowen Research Center Completes Baseline Media Survey Reports for the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency

The Bowen Research Center (BRC) recently completed two baseline media survey reports for the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency (ITPCA). Led by principal investigator Terrell W. Zollinger, Dr.P.H., Department of Family Medicine, these reports investigated the use, attitudes, beliefs, knowledge tobacco among Indiana youth and adults, as well as the awareness of recent tobacco marketing and counter-marketing advertisements. Angela Holloway, B.S.M.T., M.H.A., project manager, Scott Wooldridge, M.H.A., Michael Przybylski, Ph.D., Komol Kochhar, M.B.B.S., Nitesh Thakker, M.B.B.S., and Roberta Brown, B.S. used data from a survey designed by BRC to report the findings for the survey, conducted by the Indiana Public Opinion Laboratory. The report, funded by the ITPCA, is the first step in the agency's efforts to evaluate the tobacco control programs that they are funding with monies from the Master Settlement Agreement with the Tobacco Industry.

BRC recently submitted a proposal to the ITPCA to provide evaluation and research services to the agency as their Tobacco Evaluation and Research Coordinating Center (TERCC). The proposal was submitted as a competitive bid process and BRC is one of two finalists in consideration for the TERCC contract award. The ITPCA is expected to announce the award of the TERCC contract at the December 13th Meeting of the Indiana Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Board of Directors.

Dec 10 - Bowen Research Center Completes Planning for Genetic Services in Indiana Evaluation Report

The Bowen Research Center recently published "Planning for Genetic Services in Indiana - An Evaluation Report." Led by principal investigator Karen Harlow, Ph.D., School of Public and Environmental Affairs, this report investigated the prevalence patterns, public and medical perceptions as well of evaluation of distribution of current genetic services in Indiana. Kimberly J. Sundblad, B.S.N., project coordinator, Angeliqne Nelson, M.H.A., Michael Przybylski, Ph.D., Brenda Simpson, M.H.A., Nitesh Thakker, M.B.B.S., and Stephen McCoy used regional and national data as benchmarks and objectives to integrate quantitative and qualitative data about Indiana's genetics services to create the report. The report, funded by the Indiana State Department of Health, is an informational tool utilized by the State of Indiana Genetics Committee to formulate recommendations and plans for the State Genetics Plan.

Dr. Harlow, Kimberly J. Sundblad, B.S.N., Scott Michalski (Genetics Coordinator) and Nancy Meade from the Indiana State Department of Health will work together during the second phase of this project to prepare a plan for genetic services.

Nov 27 - Family Medicine/Bowen Research Center Staff Receive National Award

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Terrell W. Zollinger, Dr.P.H., Professor and Associate Director, Bowen Research Center and senior research investigator, Department of Family Medicine and Jan Petty, Executive Director, Alliance for Health Promotion, were part of a collaborative group that received the first American Public Health Association (APHA) GlaxoSmithKline Partnership for Healthy Children Award at the APHA 129th Annual meeting and exposition in Atlanta, Georgia

Collaborators in the Tobacco Free Youth Initiative in Indianapolis project (the Project) have included the Marion County Health Department, hospitals, schools, non-profit groups and foundations. Findings in a 1994 Marion County health assessment showed high rates of tobacco use by children and teens in the Indianapolis area, with an upward trend. The county's death rates related to tobacco use exceeded the state and national rates. In response, Tobacco Free Youth Initiative in Indianapolis project (the Project), was launched in 1997 to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use in participating schools by 10 percent and raise the compliance of tobacco retailers in at least three of the targeted neighborhoods to 75 percent.

The Project, which focuses on children in the sixth-through-eighth-grades in an under-served area, is comprised of a comprehensive curriculum called "Lifeskills Training," a field trip to an interactive health education center and a two-day youth leadership camp. The Project also works to implement tobacco prevention advocacy programs and community-based tobacco access law enforcement programs in neighborhoods adjacent to schools.

A core group of students who were trained at a leadership camp are now educating adults, their peers and communities on the community effects of tobacco. The county schools system is phasing out its drug education curriculum, replacing it with the Lifeskills Training curriculum. A 1998 survey showed that students who participated in the project interventions were less likely to be current smokers and more likely to avoid spending time with smokers.

Plans to expand the Project, now in its fourth year, were recently outlined.

The GlaxoSmithKline Partnership for Healthy Children Award was created last year to honor and encourage exceptional work that improves the health status of children.

Nov 20 - Laura Kathryn Cluxton is selected as 2001 AUL/Bowen Scholar

First year medical student, Laura Kathryn Cluxton, has been selected as the 2001 AUL/Bowen Scholar. Laura was chosen on the basis of her interests and strengths, which are well suited to the mission of the Bowen Research Center and OneAmerica's strong foundation of humanitarian values.

"When I decided to attend medical school," said Laura, "it was with the hope that I would one day, not only practice medicine but also, change medicine." Laura's volunteer experience as an ambulance service emergency medical technician and as a counselor at the Putnam County Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC) emphasized the critical health care needs that exist in rural Indiana related to smoking, obesity and general non-compliance to physician recommendations. Many individuals that cannot afford to go to the doctor use the emergency department as a primary care office. "It was nearly impossible to have follow-up care and make suggestions for lifestyle changes based on a quick emergency visit,"

said Laura. "At the CPC, there was little I could do in twenty minutes to encourage pregnant women to stop smoking, take appropriate vitamin supplements, obtain prenatal care, and watch her diet and lifestyle for the sake of her developing child and herself."

It was Laura's recent research projects that she describes as "eye opening." Through several research opportunities at the IU School of Medicine and the Wells Center for Pediatric Research, Laura learned that she can contribute to the knowledge of how to prevent and treat diseases. Her clinical research project with Marilyn Bull, M.D., division of Birth Defects and Developmental Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, emphasized the importance of preventive medicine and how to help stop or reduce medical problems before they surface.

"By completing a research project at the Bowen Research Center, I will not only continue my interest in research, but I will also gain valuable experience in the area of family practice - a career I am strongly considering because it will allow me to have a continuity of care with my patients," said Laura. "One day, I would also like to return to Putnam County and assist the CPC in developing into a medical center to provide pregnancy counseling, ultrasound, prenatal care and general medical attention for the Center's clients."

May 18 - Thomas A. Jones Receives Trustees Teaching Award

Thomas A. Jones, M.D., Assistant Professor and Director, Immunization Clinic for International Travel, was honored as one of the recipient's of the 2001 Trustees Teaching Award.

The Trustees Teaching award emphasizes an excellence in teaching can be documented through the use of teaching strategies that:

- Are based on sound pedagogical and content knowledge
- Engage students through collaborative learning, service learning, or other active learning methods appropriate to the context
- Provide students with timely feedback and assessment
- Encourage critical thinking
- Provide appropriate challenge
- Employ technology effectively
- Promote diverse perspectives
- Display general characteristics of effective teaching such as organization, clarity, fairness, enthusiasm, creativity, and flexibility.