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Kelley School partnership provides business expertise to scientists

Jan. 11, 2011

For the second year since a formal partnership program was established between the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute and Indiana University Kelley School of Business, IU MBA students are using their expertise to provide professional-level business planning services to the Indiana CTSI.

Kelley School MBA students will present these projects, including financial models, workflow analyses and marketing plans, Wednesday, Feb. 23, in the Health Informatics and Translational Sciences (HITS) Building, room 1100. Each team will deliver a 10-minute presentation on their project during the 1 to 3 p.m. session, followed by a poster and discussion session from 3 to 5 p.m.

The partnership, established in 2009, leverages the unique professional resources of the Kelley School of Business to benefit scientists from the Indiana CTSI Core and Resource Services program—as well as provides IU students the opportunity to contribute to strengthening the business of life sciences in Indiana. This year 24 to 28 students from eight project teams on the IUPUI and IU-Bloomington campuses will participate in the program.

“The fact is that core laboratories don’t have business people—they have scientists,” said Liliith Reeves, chief scientific officer for the Indiana CTSI, who initiated the Indiana CTSI-IU Kelley School of Business partnership with Lawrence Davidson, professor emeritus of business economics and public policy at IU. “They provide a great service, but they’re not experts in project management, finances, marketing, efficiencies or workflows.”

This year’s projects represent a wide range of challenges from across the Indiana CTSI. These include improving processes and efficiencies related to sample management and testing at the Clinical Pharmacology Analytical Core at the IU School of Medicine; creating a financial management and marketing plan for the METACyt Biochemical Analysis Center at IU-Bloomington; shortening the pre-clinical animal research cycle at the Clinical Discovery Laboratory at Purdue University; formulating a competitive user rate structure for the Clinical Research Center; and building a marketing plan to reach out to future donors to the Indiana Biobank.

“This a great opportunity to use the talents of the MBA students to help solve problems in Indiana,” said Linda Dunn-Jensen, PhD, clinical assistant professor and director of Life Sciences Academy PLUS, an special academic program in the Kelley School of Business that offers training in the health care, pharmaceuticals or life sciences industries. “This program not only allows our students to a chance to meet people in the field working on real projects, but also to contribute to efforts that make a real difference.”

Students entering the workforce may also use their experience with the Indiana CTSI to build their portfolio, she adds, noting using similar partnerships with private research firms is generally limited by confidentiality agreements.

“Through this experience, I learned how effective a process map can be at helping identify ways to improve efficiencies and eliminate waste,” said Ingrid Warrner, a 2011 MBA candidate who participated in a project during the program’s pilot year aimed at streamlining processes in the Clinical Resource Center. “This opportunity provides a great way to apply the skills you’ve learned in business school to a real-life project.”

Overall, Dunn-Jensen said the Kelley MBA program accepted three assignments from the Indiana CTSI in 2009. (Click [here](#) for details.) This year’s increase to eight projects illustrates the program’s success among students and investigators.

“We we were thrilled to get eight applications this year since it shows we can really add value to the process,” said Dunn-Jensen. “We’ve got a lot of interest and enthusiasm—and a lot of good work gets done.”

The Indiana CTSI and Kelley School of Business jointly review project proposals submitted by investigators to determine which best match the skills and time available to participating students. To submit a project to the Indiana CTSI Kelley School of Business MBA Core Business Planning Program for the January 2012 cycle watch for announcements on the Indiana CTSI Funding Opportunities page at www.indianactsi.org/grantsav. To learn more about the program, contact Liliith Reeves at lreeves@iupui.edu or Linda Dunn Jensen at ldunnjen@indiana.edu.

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Kelley MBA students present at the first annual project meeting in 2009



Warner's group presents on the Clinical Resource Center



CTSI researchers and MBA students in the HITS Building

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GeneGo software accelerates research

Jan. 11, 2011

Since March 2009, investigators at the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute have logged more than 400 hours on professional research software available to anyone engaged in research at Indiana, Purdue and Notre Dame universities through a CTSI-wide institutional licensing agreement with GeneGo, Inc., makers of MetaCore, a pathway analysis suite, and Eureka, a data-mining tool.

This month, Indiana CTSI has introduced trial access to, and will provide online training for, a third tool, MetaDrug, available through February 2011, which links small molecule compounds to biologic processes. Together, these powerful tools will enable investigators to better apply their research data to understanding biologic systems related to drug target selection, biomarker identification and disease profiling.

"There is a very large demand for pathway analysis tools in the research community," said Erliang Zeng, PhD, research assistant professor of computer science and engineering at Notre Dame and managing director of the Indiana CTSI Bioinformatics Core Facility, who coordinates access to GeneGo software tools among 10 research labs at the IU School of Medicine-South Bend. "Even before the CTSI provided this software we had a lot of investigators asking for it."

More than 40 investigator teams from all three Indiana CTSI member institutions have utilized these tools since their introduction, according to online usage information, with approximately 48 percent at Purdue and 41 percent at IU, including IUPUI, IU-Bloomington and the IU schools of medicine and dentistry. Eleven percent who accessed the tools were from the University at Notre Dame.

Pathway analysis, which reveals significant relationships between genes, including patterns associated with certain diseases, provides much greater insight into biological functions than individual gene analysis. Moreover, Zhang points out that MetaCore's vast pathway analysis database increases the chances of accurately identifying these patterns compared to many competing products.

"We've found the support for non-commercial products isn't as good as MetaCore's, and also that for pathway analysis a comprehensive pathway analysis database isn't just useful—it's critical," he said. "MetaCore's database is built by more than 10 PhDs whose whole job is to read the literature everyday and manually curate the database."

The initial contract for institute-wide access to GeneGo software was coordinated by the Indiana CTSI Translational Technologies Resources program by leveraging existing licenses—originally purchased by faculty at IUSM and IUPUI, along with additional funds from Purdue and Notre Dame. The agreement benefitted the original purchasing faculty by opening these tools' availability to their entire staff, as well as provided a discount or extended license time at no additional charge.

MetaCore and Eureka are available to all investigators with log-in credentials from IU, IUPUI, Purdue or Notre Dame at www.indianactsi.org/genego. Trial access to MetaDrug, which began Jan. 9, will last two months.

An online training session in MetaDrug will be available at **4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 31**. To participate, go to the [online meeting page](#) and enter the password "ToxHunter123." Or participate in an audio-only conference by calling 1-866-469-3239 and entering access code "799 905 431." For assistance, visit genego.webex.com/genego/mc.

MetaDrug access may also be extended beyond the original agreement based on investigator interest and feedback. For more information, visit www.genego.com/genego_lp.php. Individuals interested in continued access to MetaDrug may contact Melanie DeFord at mdeford@nd.edu. For additional questions, please contact Lilit Reeves at lreeves@iupui.edu.

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Call for Proposals -- 2011 Predoctoral Training and Young Investigator Awards

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute is seeking applicants for predoctoral training awards and research fellowships in clinical and translational research:

- **Predocctoral Training Awards in Translational Research** are available to investigators with at least one year of a pre-doctoral training program and co-mentorship by faculty investigators from at least two different disciplines. Eligible applicants must be engaged in research that is translational in nature and takes advantage of the synergism that comes from working at this basic/clinical interface. Benefits include partial salary support, tuition and fees for required and elective coursework, pilot research monies and travel funds to attend the national CTSI young investigator meeting. Interested candidates should e-mail a CV to Colleen Gabauer, EdD, at ictsi@purdue.edu. (Phone: 765-494-9256). Details at www.indianactsi.org/announcements/tgrant2011.
- **Young Investigator Awards in Clinical-Translational Research** are available to clinician-scientists with a doctoral degree or basic scientists with a PhD. Eligible candidates must be engaged in translational research that involves some component of human subjects research with high potential for early translation into impacting patient care. Funding is for two years, with the second year of funding contingent upon satisfactory progress. Benefits include a full stipend as well as health insurance and partial coverage of tuition and fees. Interested candidates should e-mail a CV to Donna Burgett at dburgett@regenstrief.org. (Phone: 317-630-7447). Details at www.indianactsi.org/announcements/kgrant2011.

Eligible candidates will be provided additional information regarding the formal application process. Applications must be submitted by **Thursday, Feb. 7**. Awards will begin July 1.

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Register for the 2011 Next Generation Sequencing Symposium

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute will host the 2011 Next Generation Sequencing Symposium from noon to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, in the Riley Outpatient Center auditorium.

Tim H. M. Huang, PhD, professor of molecular virology, immunology and medical genetics-human genetics at Ohio State University and director of the OSU-IU Center for Cancer Systems Biology, will deliver a keynote address on "Epigenetic regulation in cancer drug resistance."

Additional speakers will include Susan Clare, MD, PhD, associate professor of surgery and co-director of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tissue Bank; Rebecca W. Doerge, PhD, professor and chair of statistics and agronomy and director of the Statistics Bioinformatics Center at Purdue University; Howard J. Edenberg, PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and medical and molecular genetics and director of the Center for Medical Genomics; Jeffrey Feder, PhD, professor of biological sciences and director of the Global Linkages of Biology, the Environment, and Society at the University of Notre Dame; Tatiana Foroud, PhD, professor of medical molecular genetics and director of the division of hereditary diseases and family studies; and Yuzhen Ye, PhD, assistant professor of bioinformatics at IU-Bloomington.

This event is sponsored by the Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, the Center for Medical Genomics and Ohio State University-Indiana University Center for Cancer Systems Biology.

To register, visit compbio.iupui.edu/nextgen/registrants/register. For more information, visit compbio.iupui.edu/nextgen.

Questions to or Yunlong Liu, PhD, at 278-9222 or yunliu@iupui.edu or Ken Cornetta, MD, at kcornett@iupui.edu.

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