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SPARC consortium provides \$1.9 million for autoimmune disease research

March 10, 2015

The first grants from the Strategic Pharma-Academic Research Consortium for Translational Medicine will provide over \$1.9 million to advance research on autoimmune disease at several medical research universities across the Midwest.

The research consortium, led by the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, will support research on multiple sclerosis, lupus, Crohn's disease and two chronic connective tissue disorders: dermatomyositis and scleroderma. The consortium will focus on other research areas in future grants.

Members of SPARC include four institutions supported by the National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Research Awards: Indiana CTSI, which includes Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame, and institutions at Northwestern University, The Ohio State University and Washington University in St. Louis.

The awards are supported by the consortium's industry partners: Eli Lilly and Co. and Takeda Pharmaceuticals International Inc.

"There's a true wealth of expertise on autoimmune disorders across our membership, but there really was not a large-scale group in the region focused on the topic until the creation of this consortium," said Anantha Shekhar, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Indiana CTSI, associate dean for translational research at the IU School of Medicine and associate vice president for university clinical affairs at IU. "We're eager to help these scientists advance their critical work on these diseases -- many of which are poorly understood despite their impact on millions in the U.S. and worldwide -- and hope they may quickly translate into meaningful advances in treatment and therapy."

The selected research teams, which were chosen by an independent governance council with equal representation for each member of the consortium, will receive up to \$400,000 to advance their research. The consortium will support the funded research for two years. Award recipients are:

- Anthony R. French, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics, pathology and immunology and biomedical engineering at Washington University in St. Louis, and collaborator Lauren M. Pachman, M.D., professor of pediatrics-rheumatology at Northwestern University, whose work will advance basic understanding about the root causes of juvenile dermatomyositis, the most common inflammatory muscle disease in children.
- Gwendalyn Randolph, Ph.D., professor of pathology and immunology, immunobiology and internal medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, and collaborator Razvan Arsenescu, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of internal medicine at The Ohio State University, whose work will focus on intestinal fibrosis, a complication of Crohn's disease that often requires surgery. Crohn's disease, a type of inflammatory bowel disease, is estimated to affect as many as 700,000 Americans.
- Brad H. Rovin, M.D., professor of internal medicine and pathology at The Ohio State University, and collaborators David A. Flockhart, M.D., Ph.D., Harry and Edith Gladstein Professor of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, and Michael T. Eadon, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, both at the Indiana University School of Medicine, whose work will advance the ability to predict patients' response to treatment for kidney inflammation caused by lupus, an autoimmune disorder affecting 1.5



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Anthony French, M.D., Ph.D



Gwendalyn Randolph, Ph.D.



Brad H. Rovin, M.D.



John Varga, M.D.



David Flockhart, M.D., Ph.D.

million Americans and millions more worldwide.

- John Varga, M.D., John and Nancy Hughes Distinguished Professor of Rheumatology at Northwestern University, and collaborators John P.
 Atkinson, M.D., professor of internal medicine and molecular biology, and Elisha Roberson, Ph.D., instructor in medicine, both at Washington University in St. Louis, whose work will seek to advance basic science and identify potential future drug targets for scleroderma (also known as systemic sclerosis), a complex autoimmune disease with no currently approved therapy.
- Yanjiao Zhou, Ph.D., instructor in medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, and collaborators Laura Piccio, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology at Washington University in St. Louis, and Amy Lovett-Racke, Ph.D., associate professor of microbial infection and immunology at The Ohio State University, whose work will investigate the role of gut bacteria in multiple sclerosis, a disease of the central nervous system that affects 2.3 million people worldwide.

Translational medicine is the art of turning results from medical research conducted in the lab and academic clinic into safe and innovative new treatments and therapies for patients in general medical practice. The Strategic Pharma-Academic Research Consortium for Translational Medicine unites the strengths of the public and private academic research sectors to tackle large-scale translational medicine projects that require multi-instructional, multi-expert collaborations. By connecting business and other CTSA-funded institutions across the region, SPARC creates a translational research pipeline across the Midwest. The creation of SPARC was supported in part by Biocrossroads, an Indianapolis-based organization that connects corporations, academic institutions and philanthropic organizations to advance the state's strengths in the life sciences.

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute is a statewide collaboration of Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame to facilitate the translation of scientific discoveries in the lab into new patient treatments in Indiana and beyond. It was established in 2008 with a Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at the National Institutes of Health totaling \$60 million (TL1TR001107, KL2TR001106 and UL1TR001108), with additional support from the state, the three member universities, and public and private partners. It is a member of the national network of over 60 CTSA-funded organizations across the country.

Dr. Shekhar is also Raymond E. Houk Professor of Psychiatry and professor of neurobiology and pharmacology and toxicology at the IU School of Medicine.

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Indiana CTSI Collaboration in Translational Research program: Spotlight on Notre Dame

March 10, 2015

Since its establishment nearly eight years ago, the Indiana CTSI's innovative cross-university grant programs have been creating connections across Indiana, including not only among scientists at Indiana University and Purdue University but also researchers at the fellow member institution of the University of Notre Dame.

Just a couple of the scientists to benefit from Indiana CTSI Collaboration in Translational Research pilot grant program at Notre Dame are William Phillip, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, and Paul Helquist, Ph.D., professor and associate chair of chemistry and biochemistry.

"My research has been greatly impacted by the CTSI," said Dr. Phillip, who has collaborated since 2012 with Bryan Bourdouris, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemical engineering at Purdue University, to develop next-generation membranes for reducing the cost of purifying biopharmaceuticals.

"In addition to the research experience, one of the most important elements of our funding was the opportunity that CTSI provided to us -- two young investigators at the start of their careers -- to establish a unique collaboration between Purdue and Notre Dame that will be more impactful than the sum its parts," Dr. Phillip added.

Dr. Helquist, whose work involves pre-clinical development of promising drug compounds, such as antibiotics and anti-tumor agent, has established a fruitful collaboration with V. Jo Davisson, Ph.D., professor of medicinal chemistry and molecular pharmacology at Purdue University.

"By participating in projects like these I am able to discover so much more than if I was simply working on my own," said Dr. Helquist, "With the trend in funding moving away from grants for just primary investigators and towards collaborative research teams, the Indiana CTSI grants provide an ideal opportunity for Notre Dame researchers to develop new collaborations with partners throughout Indiana."

In addition to the CTR grant, Dr. Helquist has also gained support from the Indiana CTSI on projects ranging from ranging from patents to FDA clinical trials for his work in drug discovery.

Applications for the 2015 Indiana CTR Pilot Grant program are currently closed but applications are sought annually. For more information about the program, contact Anne Nguyen at annnguye@iu.edu.

"I encourage all interested faculty to apply for this opportunity," said Richard Taylor, Ph.D., associate vice president for Research at the University of Notre Dame, who serves as deputy director of the Indiana CTSI at Notre Dame. "This pilot grant program is an opportune way to explore new relationships with Indiana University and Purdue University researchers and develop impactful translational collaborations. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of these research partnerships."

By Joanne Fahey

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Indiana CTSI launches new minor in clinical research starting spring 2015

March 10, 2015

The minor program will be offered through the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute's Career development, Education and Research Training (CERT) program.

The program is designed to provide students pursuing a doctorate with an overview of clinical research concepts and skills, including clinical research methodology, clinical trials, research ethics and biostatistics.

The minor's requirements include a total of 12 credit hours, including nine credit hours of core courses and three elective credit hours in coursework focused on a specific area of interest. Eligible electives include courses focused on grant writing, biostatistics in public health, patient-reported outcomes and economic evaluation, fundamentals of epidemiology, tools and techniques for translational research and critical inquiry health sciences.

Core and elective courses offered under the minor are provided in collaboration with the IU Graduate School, IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health and IU School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at IUPUI.

The director of the minor program is Kurt Kroenke, M.D., IUPUI Chancellor's Professor and professor of medicine at the IU School of Medicine, who also serves as director of CERT. Established with the foundation of the Indiana CTSI in 2008, the CERT program developed from the Clinical Investigator Training Enhancement (CITE) program established at the IU School of Medicine through an award from the National Institutes of Health in 2000. The program, which gained an increased focus on clinical and translational research under the Indiana CTSI, also offers master's degree and certificate programs in clinical research and a master's degree, minor and certificate program in translational science.

R. Mark Payne, M.D., professor of pediatrics and of medical and molecular genetics, serves as director of the translational medicine programs. Dr. Kroenke is also director of the masters and certificate programs in clinical research.

The Indiana CTSI CERT program also houses the Indiana CTSI Young Investigator Awards, pre- and post-doctoral training awards programs, and a structured mentorship program.

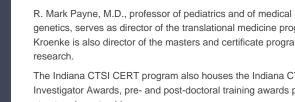
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CHEP pilot funds bolster local diabetes management program

March 10, 2015

A pilot grant from the Community Health Engagement Program at the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute is supporting collaboration between the Minority Health Coalition of Marion County and the Indiana Diabetes Translational Research Center to further strengthen a highly successful local diabetes program.

The "Too Sweet for Your Own Good" Diabetes Education Conference is an annual conference and awareness campaign developed by MHMC and partners of the Statewide Minority Diabetes Alliance of Marion County.

The event promotes nutrition, physical activity and tobacco cessation as well as raises awareness about local diabetes management resources among people affected by the condition.

The event regularly receives high satisfaction ratings and repeat participation; however, a full evaluation of the program, including measuring health outcomes and knowledge acquirement among participants, had not been conducted. With support from the Indiana CTSI, Mary de Groot, Ph.D., an associate professor of medicine and member of the Indiana Diabetes Translational Research Center at the IU School of Medicine, will evaluate the program based upon more than 100 respondent surveys conducted at the 2014 conference -- as well as a six-month follow-up survey in May.

Although the data analysis remains ongoing, Dr. de Groot said the information collected will provide an important document of the program's effectiveness -- as well as valuable insights into the program to inform organizers' decisions about future event -- further raising its impact within the local community.

For more information about MHMC, visit www.minorityhcmc.org.

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Diabetes Education Conference

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Kenneth Carlson to direct Indiana University Clinical Trials Office

March 10, 2015

Kenneth H. Carlson has been named director of the Clinical Trials Office for University Clinical Affairs at Indiana University. He will begin his new position on Feb. 25.

The Clinical Trials Office, established in July 2014, serves as the single point of entry for clinical trials across IU, providing streamlined support for the facilitation of research studies, including contracting, budgeting and metric tracking.

"I am delighted that Ken has agreed to join IU," said Anantha Shekhar, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, associate dean for translational research at the IU School of Medicine and associate vice president for university clinical affairs at IU. "As the director of the IU Clinical Trials Office, he will bring deep understanding about what industry partners are looking for when placing clinical trials at academic medical centers, and how the clinical trials business is evolving across the globe. This will help propel IU to become a preferred clinical research partner for a wide range of biomedical industries."

In this position, Carlson will provide strategic leadership to the Clinical Trials Office, including advancing the timely and efficient conduct of industry sponsored clinical trials at IU and its health care partners of IU Health and Eskenazi Health. He will be responsible for the overall management of the office, its staff and resources, and will set policies and procedures for ensuring quality service and increased participation in clinical trials. He also will engage current and new clinical trial sponsors, and maintain existing sponsor relationships, to increase the overall number of clinical trials conducted at IU.

Prior to joining the university, Carlson served 19 years at Eli Lilly and Company in multiple positions dedicated to early and late phase drug development, most recently as the manager of global sourcing and study delivery solutions in the division of clinical pharmacology. He has also been the associate director of project planning and management at Eli Lilly's affiliate in Kobe, Japan, and the manager of the integration of clinical pharmacology strategy, planning and operations for Lilly Japan and global clinical pharmacology operations in U.S., Europe and Singapore. He also previously served as a toxicologist with the Chemical Industry Institute of Technology, now the Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences.

Carlson holds a master's degree in toxicology from the University of Arizona, a bachelor's degree in biology from Roanoke College in Virginia and a 2012 certificate of achievement in alliance management from the Association of Strategic Alliance Professionals.

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Kenneth H. Carlson



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Access Technology Program Updates -- March 2015

The latest update from the Indiana CTSI Access Technology Program includes information about the Macromolecular Crystallography Facility Integrated with the Crystallization Automation Facility (MCF/CAF) in Bloomington, and updates from the Chemical Genomics Core Facility and from Bill Barnett about the REDCap outage.

Macromolecular Crystallography Facility Integrated with the Crystallization Automation Facility (MCF/CAF) in Bloomington. As a researcher, after working diligently to understand a system to deduce the biological and biochemical underpinnings of a target of interest, have you ever wondered what structural information would provide to the overall comprehension of the chosen target? If obtaining structural information is intriguing, yet you question the best means by which to pursue such endeavors, the Macromolecular Crystallography Facility (MCF) CTSI Core may be an asset to your research program. This facility provides the equipment and instrumentation necessary to facilitate research in all aspects of protein X-ray crystallography to gain structural biology results and insight. The mission of the MCF is to make macromolecular X-ray crystallography and structure determination accessible for all users, regardless of prior experience in structural techniques. In addition to the equipment, the facility provides the expertise to advise, support, and aid in structure determination to obtain the desired outcome of a structural model for targets of interest.

The follow-up question that one may have could be, "How is this more helpful than the traditional means of macromolecular crystallography?" The distinction of the MCF is that it houses the state of the art, METACyt Crystallization Automation Facility (CAF), allowing high throughput macromolecular crystallography via the use of advanced robotics. Macromolecular crystallization by nature is an empirical method and one will typically try varying types of crystallant conditions (sometimes upwards of thousands of conditions) in hopes that one will be amendable to help form a crystal, the first step that will lead to structural determination. This step in the technique is considered the bottleneck; as it is tedious in obtaining high yields (volume & concentration) of pure protein sample and time consuming in monitoring under microscope and documenting for these crystallization experiments. The advantage of utilizing the robotics in the CAF is that it greatly reduces the volume of pure, high concentration, protein sample by 1/10th. Where by traditional means, one sets a drop ratio of 1 µL protein to 1 µL crystallant, the Phoenix robot can set drops with a ratio as low as 150 nanoL to 150 nanoL. These drops are set in UV transparent 96-3 well plates, where each of the 96 reservoirs has three subwells. These wells can be utilized to set samples of varying concentrations or one in an apo-state and another bound to substrate. Therefore, in total, one can set 288 crystallization experiments on one single plate! The CAF has 11 commercially available crystallization screens from varying manufacturers. If a user sets all 3 subwells with all commercial screens available, in a matter of a few hours, one can set over 3000 crystallization experiments! All the while, only needing approximately 400 uL per precious sample. The beauty and greatest advantage of the CAF is having the Minstrel Imager robot that will inspect, image, monitor, and document macromolecular crystallization experiments in temporal, automated fashion. Therefore removing the time-consuming aspect of observation crystallization by hand under microscope for each of the wells. Utilizing the web-based Server and CrystalTrak application, a user has access to view these experiments from their home University/Institution that may be hundreds, if not thousands of miles away, or even when one is halfway around the world on conference. This highlights only a few of the many advantages that a user can find when utilizing the MCF / METACyt CAF CTSI Core.

Funds for the automation equipment were initially awarded through the METACyt initiative in early 2012 based on a proposal submitted by Prof. Charles Dann III (cedann@indiana.edu) with contributions and wide-ranging support from members of the IU-Bloomington faculty. The robots include the following: (1) the Phoenix HT/RE, a drop-setting robot that rapidly distributes user samples and crystallant solutions onto screening plates. The Phoenix provides precision in dispensing and greatly reduces the time required for screening, but more importantly, the volume of sample needed for crystallization experiments; (2) the Alchemist DT is a solution mixing robot capable of making optimized crystallization screens accurately once an initial crystallization condition is found; (3) the Minstrel HT/UV combined with the Gallery 700 incubation units provides storage and facilitates automated image collection based on user preferences for all crystallization trial conditions. Each Gallery 700 incubator provides storage in temperature-controlled units as robotic arms gently transport the plates to the central Minstrel imaging system where they are routinely monitored and imaged to assess crystal formation. The Minstrel is able to capture images in monochromatic, color, polarized or UV modes. The ability to use UV fluorescence for imaging permits quick discrimination between protein and salt crystals. Documented experimental information and data are stored on a server that is accessible via the CrystalTrak website from which users can view their images, effectively monitoring the history of thousands of crystallization experiments.

The MCF provides the tools necessary for crystal harvesting and a home source Rigaku RU-H2R R-Axis IV X-ray generator permitting collection of diffraction data; additionally, computational resources and support for structure building and refinement with the latest hardware and programs are available. The MCF through IUB is a member institution in the Molecular Biology Consortium (MBC), allowing for routine synchrotron access to control on Beamline 4.2.2 at the Advanced Light Source (ALS), part of Lawrence Berkeley National Labs in Berkeley, California. Users can reserve beam time and send up to 120 crystal samples in automation compatible pucks for high throughput X-ray screening and data collection. Recently, with support from the OVPR office at IUB, the CAF has obtained the Crystal Gryphon LCP, a robot specialized to dispense crystal seeds and lipidic cubic phase reagents, expanding our ability to perform experiments with membrane protein targets.

To date, the MCF and CAF has primarily served researchers in the Biology, Chemistry, and Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry departments on the Bloomington campus. As a designated CTSI core, the equipment, services, support, and expertise provided can be expanded to other academic institutions within the network, and we encourage researchers from all CTSI institutions to utilize these fantastic facilities. In order to perform experiments, users need only to complete sample information forms and subsequently ship samples to Dr.

Wibowo (awibowo@indiana.edu) at IUB. Based on user requests, MCF/CAF scientists will set crystallization experiments with either the Phoenix for soluble proteins or the Gryphon for membrane protein targets. The plates are inspected on a routine schedule and users have unrestricted access to the web page to observe the documented images to monitor progression of crystallization experiments. Personnel are also available for consultation, advice, and analysis of results.

Contact Information:

MCF / METACyt CAF CTSI Core Simon Hall MSB1 Room 401/401A 212 S. Hawthorne Dr. Bloomington, IN 47405 Website: www.indiana.edu/~iumcf

Ardian Soca Wibwo, Ph.D. Facility Manager Simon Hall MSB1 Room 005A Office: 812-856-7505 Email: awibowo@indiana.edu

Sample Shipment Information:

Indiana University Ardian Soca Wibowo, Ph.D. Jordan Hall, Rm No. A018 1001 E. 3rd Street Bloomington, IN 47405 7005

https://www.indianactsi.org/servicecores?view=core&cid=84 http://www.indiana.edu/~iumcf/

Chemical Genomics Core Facility in Indianapolis

The Chemical Genomics Core Facility has recently purchased a high content analysis (HCA) platform, the ArrayScan XTI HCA Reader, from Thermo Scientific. The HCA equipment is a fundamental and powerful tool in studying cell biology with the capabilities of automating cellular micro-imaging, quantifying cellular and subcellular morphologies, responses, and markers, and real-time automatic analysis, including data reduction, statistics, and interactive links to corresponding images. Validated cellular assays include but not limited to the followings:

- Viability, Apoptosis, Autophagy, Cytotoxicity, Confluence,
- Proliferation, Division, Cell Cycle, DNA Content/Damage, Genotoxicity, Micronucleus, COMET,
- Morphology, Differentiation, Pluripotency, Colony Formation, Myo-/Epithelial Tube Formation, Neurite Outgrowth, Synaptogenesis,
- Migration, Chemotaxis, Invasion, Adhesion,
- Signal Transduction, Kinases, Transcription Factors, Receptors,
- · Ligands, Phosphorylation, Reporters, Calcium,
- Colocalization, RNAi Genomics Screens, Cell Phenotyping, Monoclonal Screening, Protein Expression, Subpopulation Analysis, Transfection Efficiency,
- Inflammation, Oxidative Stress, Infection, Plaque Clearing, Lipid Uptake, Phospholipidosis, Skin Sensitization,
- Endocytosis, Translocation, Cytoskeletal Reorganization, Mitochondrial Health, Proteasome Function, Ubiquitinylation,
- Primary Hepatocytes, Primary Neurons, Stem Cells, Embryoid Bodies, Spheroids, C.elegans, zebrafish, yeast

To take the advantage of the high content technology and explore how it can facilitate your translational research, you are welcome to contact Dr. Lan Chen (lanchen@iu.edu) to discuss your applications and the development of an image-based cellular assay. https://www.indianactsi.org/servicecores?view=core&cid=15 http://www.biom.iu.edu/chemgen/

Bill Barnett from the Advanced Biomedical IT Core: Followup on November REDCap Outage.

As a follow up to last November's service outage that affected REDCap, I want to let you know the steps we have taken to address the problems that caused the outage. REDCap went out of service because it was on the same server as another service that experienced issues that required us to take the entire server offline. REDCap itself did not actually contribute to the problem, but unfortunately was affected by this other service. That being said, we were aware of the unfortunate timing of the outage and the importance of REDCap, and made returning REDCap to production our highest priority.

In returning REDCap to service we wanted to make sure that the same issues would not cause future outages, so we moved REDCap off of that server and onto a dedicated server. We also took additional steps to make the REDCap service more secure and reliable and that adhere to current best practices, to wit:

- REDCap has been moved to dedicated virtual machines (VMs) on the intelligent infrastructure, an enterprise grade infrastructure that is
 more robust that the previous server. This: improves performance and reliability, eliminates the possibility that other services could
 impact REDCap again, and provides capacity that can grow as usage grows.
- We have implemented REDCap on one dedicated VM for the application, and one dedicated VM for the database. This will not only
 improve performance, but will improve the security of the data since it provides additional security controls for access to the data
 managed by REDCap.

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Contact: info@indianactsi.org Again, we apologize for the untimely outage of this important service. The steps we have taken to return it to service will not only prevent similar outages, but address other potential service issues proactively.



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Indiana CTSI Indiana CTSI Open Requests for Applications -- March 2015 March 11, 2015

Several Indiana CTSI-funded programs are accepting applications. They are:

IU Health Values Grand Challenges Grant - due April 27

Applications are sought for the IU Health Values Grand Challenge Grant, a new component of the IU Health Values Fund for Research and Education grant program.

The IU Health Values Grand Challenges Grant will support the conduct of clinically relevant population health research and education that is scientifically meritorious, medically sound and has a clear benefit to IU Health and the population it serves. The project should lead to one of the following:

- Discovery of new knowledge and the development of new population health research and education models to improve outcomes.
- Promotion of health in the population and the provision of health care of the highest quality to the patients and are cost-effective, efficient, leaner and effective in serving its customers.

Proposals should be limited to \$250,000 per year and up to a maximum of \$500,000 for two years. Letters of intent are due**Friday, March** 27. Complete proposals are due 5 p.m. Monday, April 27.

For additional application instructions or to apply,visit the Indiana CTSI grants portal and log in using your institutional username and password. Applications instructions are located under Indiana University Health Values Fund: Pilot and Feasibility Research Program - 2015.04.

Submission questions to Anne Nguyen at ictsi@iu.edu. Questions on financial issues, eligibility and budgeting to Peter M. Michael at pmichael@iuhealth.org or Rob Clark at rclark16@iuhealth.org.

IUSM Core Equipment Grant - due March 20

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute is seeking proposals from Indiana CTSI-designated cores at the IU School of Medicine requesting support for the purchase of equipment, software or other resources that enhance the research environment and contribute to the research mission of the School and the Indiana CTSI.

Proposals from \$5,000 to \$100,000 will be accepted for this proposal. Proposals for equipment costing more than \$100,000 will be considered if matching funds are identified.

Complete proposals are due 5 p.m. Friday, March 20.

For additional application instructions or to apply,visit the Indiana CTSI grants portal and log in using your institutional username and password. Applications instructions are located under Indiana CTSI/IUSM Core Equipment Funding - 2015.03. Questions to ictsi@iu.edu.

Komen Tissue Bank Samples - due March 13

Applications for pilot funding for the use of the biosamples from the Komen Tissue Bank (KTB) are due

The Susan G. Komen Cure Tissue Bank at IU Simon Cancer Center is the only normal breast tissue bio-repository of its kind in the world. As such, it is uniquely positioned to characterize the molecular and genetic basis of normal breast development and compare it to the different types of breast cancer. The bank was established expressly for the acquisition of normal tissues -- breast tissue, blood, and DNA -- from volunteer donors with no clinical evidence of breast disease and/or malignancy. The Komen Tissue Bank represents a unique resource available to -- and used by -- an international group of investigators.

This pilot grant program specifically designed to promote research studies using these samples and data. Proposals will be evaluated on the likelihood of generating new intellectual property or extramural grant support and overall scientific merit. Applications requests to this program not exceed \$20,000 and a one year project period.

Applications are due 5 p.m. Friday, March 13. To apply, visit the Indiana CTSI grants portal and log in using your institutional username and password. Applications instructions are located under "Pilot Funding for Research Use of Komen Tissue Bank Samples - 2015.03

Questions regarding scope of the proposal to Anne Nguyen at ictsi@iu.edu or Jill Henry at jihenry@iupui.edu. Questions concerning financial issues related to grant submissions to Rob Dimmitt at ictsi@iu.edu.

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