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## Strategic plan released for IU's life sciences success

Indiana University officials unveiled a strategic plan to move the university into the ranks of the nation's top research centers for six areas of the life sciences -- analytical chemistry, organic chemistry, cancer biology, the neurosciences, diabetes and metabolic disorders, and model systems in biological research.

The plan outlines how IU can align existing strengths in such fields as analytical chemistry, information technology and supercomputing with its rapidly growing medical research centers in the IU School of Medicine. It says that combining these resources in cooperative ventures will make IU more competitive for major research grants from the National Institutes of Health.

The 60-page plan was presented Feb. 3 to the IU trustees during the meeting of the board's long-range planning committee.

"This plan gives us an overall strategy for a comprehensive program of research across both of our major campuses," said IU Provost Michael McRobbie, PhD.

It will match the laboratories in Bloomington – which have some of the most sophisticated devices in the world for analyzing and measuring chemical compounds – with laboratories at the IU School of Medicine, where innovative research is being done on cancer, diabetes and other diseases.

The comprehensive 15-goal plan sets key priority areas and prescribes specific actions for the purpose of maintaining or elevating areas of life sciences research to international prominence.

For an overview of the plan, see [www.medicine.indiana.edu/news\\_releases/viewRelease.php4?art=444](http://www.medicine.indiana.edu/news_releases/viewRelease.php4?art=444). To view or download a copy of the IU Life Sciences Strategic Plan, visit [www.lifesciences.iu.edu](http://www.lifesciences.iu.edu).

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## T. K. Li to present Mark Brothers Lecture

Former IUSM Associate Dean for Research Ting-Kai Li, MD, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, returns to IUSM on Feb. 23 and 24 as the Mark Brothers Lecturer.

The Mark Brothers Lectureship was endowed by Dr. and Mrs. Guey C. Mark to honor Dr. Mark's elder brothers. The award recognizes internationally renowned medical scientists of Asian descent, bringing them to the campus to interact with faculty and students.

Dr. Li's research-oriented presentation entitled "Animal Models in Alcohol Research: What Are We Modeling?" will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, in the first-floor auditorium of the IU Cancer Research Institute.

At 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, Dr. Li's clinically-oriented presentation, "Alcoholism: Understanding the Developmental Trajectory and Recovery," will be in the same auditorium.

Dr. Li was a faculty member in the IU Department of Medicine with joint appointments in biochemistry and psychiatry from 1971 to 2002, when he resigned to join the NIAAA.

Dr. Li, who was the first associate dean for research at IUSM, received the highest academic honor bestowed by the university when he was named a Distinguished Professor in 1985. His accomplishments again were recognized when, in 1999, he was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Throughout his career, Dr. Li has been an international leader in scientific advances that have transformed both the way alcoholism as a disease is understood and the means of understanding alcohol's effects on the body and the brain.

For questions about the lectures, contact Janice Walther, IUSM Dean's Office, at 278-3048, or by e-mail at [jkwalthe@iupui.edu](mailto:jkwalthe@iupui.edu).

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## M&M: Mindfulness in Medicine

To Err is Human

*The response to the story below was written by Samuel Flanders, MD, senior vice president of medical quality for Clarian Health, and Sue Maple, PhD, educational consultant, Office of Medical Education and Curricular Affairs.*

**A third-year medical student reported:** Today a mistake was made about giving a medication to a patient he had an allergy too. Fortunately the mistake was caught and the order was cancelled immediately, but we still spent time as a team discussing how this happened. Although the patient was fine, we discussed how to apologize to the patient and how to avoid these situations. I thought it was great how we discussed this honestly and actually talked to the patient about what happened.

**Another third-year medical student reported:** There was an instance where our resident ordered a medication that was contraindicated in my patient. The following morning our attending asked me why I had ordered the aforementioned medication. My resident was with us and never mentioned making the order. The experience was beneficial in the sense that our attending used the example as a teaching point; however, I was discouraged that our resident did not confess to ordering the medication and allowed me to take the blame.

**Response:** These two stories are valuable in that they provide a context for discussing two important issues: errors in health care and relationships with team members. Regrettably, it is a reality that mistakes do sometimes occur in health care. Members of the health-care team know this, and patients know it.

A 1999 report from the Institute of Medicine, *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System*, received a great deal

of attention when it shed light on the alarming number of preventable medical mistakes occurring in hospitals and clinics across the country. How extensive is the problem of preventable medical errors? The *Institute of Medicine* report estimated that between 44,000 and 98,000 deaths each year are attributable to medical errors. Using the lower estimate of 44,000 deaths annually, this would cause medical errors to rank as the eighth leading cause of death in the United States – higher even than motor vehicle accidents (43,458). Medication mistakes are responsible for many of the deaths. The attending physicians in these two stories were absolutely correct in using a "near miss" situation as an opportunity to teach about preventing, learning from, and resolving medication errors.

As a result of the IOM report and others, hospitals and clinics across the country are taking steps to improve patient safety and a strategic plan has been developed to reduce medication errors in U.S. hospitals.

Some examples of safety efforts in place at Clarian include the Safe Passage program, implementation of computerized reminders and alerts and the Root Cause Analysis process for errors and "near misses". Safe Passage is a Clarian program that puts a specially trained nurse on each patient unit who is responsible for education, implementation and monitoring of patient-safety initiatives. By having someone "local" to the unit, compliance is improved and unit-specific issues and concerns can easily be addressed.

Clarian also is in the process of implementing the Cerner medical information system. This system is capable of providing alerts and reminders to physicians and staff in response to combinations of inputs. For example, a patient with a high Creatinine who has an aminoglycoside antibiotic ordered would generate an alert. When errors or near-misses do occur, the Root Cause Analysis (RCA) process provides an in-depth look at the etiology of the problem and results in actions being taken to prevent a recurrence. Conducted in a "no fault" style environment, the RCA sessions are educational in nature and provide valuable input into care system changes at Clarian.

An altogether different sort of problem emerges in the second story, where a medical student felt that he or she unfairly took the blame for a problematic medication order. Given the team relationships at work, and the resident's power relative to the student, it is not surprising that the student did not feel safe in speaking up. Apparently, the resident also felt unsafe in honestly discussing what had happened. The end result is that the team relationship has been damaged and some negative modeling has occurred. What could have happened differently in this situation? How, as a community, can we make it feel safe to engage in open discussions about both our professional successes and challenges?

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M&M: Mindfulness in Medicine is an editorial collaboration among the Teacher-Learner Advocacy Committee, the Relationship-Centered Care Initiative, and the Office for Medical Education and Curricular Affairs. Each column features true stories, letters, poetry or art from members of the IUSM campus community. Comments, questions, submissions or ideas for columns may be sent to [meca@iupui.edu](mailto:meca@iupui.edu).

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## Problem-solving competency director needed

The IUSM Curriculum Council seeks a director for the "Problem Solving" competency.

The primary objective of this position will be facilitating the teaching, assessment, development and documentation of students' competence in the area of problem solving. The director will work closely with course and clerkship directors, faculty from all IUSM Centers for Medical Education, students, competency directors and the Dean's Office for Medical Education and Curricular Affairs.

Candidates must have interest and experience in medical education and/or methods of adult education and have a written commitment from their department chairman to protect a minimum of 20 percent FTE for this educational administrative role.

Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest, a CV and a letter of support from their department chairman that specifically addresses the candidate's protected time for the position to Paula Wales, Medical Education and

Curricular Affairs, EF 200, 274-4556, or [pwales@iupui.edu](mailto:pwales@iupui.edu).

Applications should be received no later than **Friday, March 3**. Electronic applications are encouraged.

Additional information about the competency curriculum can be found at <http://meca.iusm.iu.edu/>.

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## Staff award nominations sought

The IUPUI Staff Council is accepting nominations for two awards honoring outstanding campus staff.

As part of the observance in March of Staff Council Awareness Month, IUPUI faculty, staff and students are invited to submit nominations for the Gerald L. Bepko Staff Council Spirit Award and the "Making a Difference" award.

Nominations for both awards can be submitted through **Friday, March 3**.

The "spirit" of IUPUI is demonstrated through a person's attitude, acts of loyalty, teamwork, and contribution to the mission, goals and strategic initiatives of the university, as well as the community. The Bepko Spirit Award recognizes full-time appointed staff who exemplify that "spirit." A nomination form, along with additional information, is available at [www.iupui.edu/~scouncil/spirit1.html](http://www.iupui.edu/~scouncil/spirit1.html).

The Making a Difference award spotlights staff who contribute to IUPUI and/or the community in a meaningful way. See [www.iupui.edu/~scouncil/Development/make-difference.doc](http://www.iupui.edu/~scouncil/Development/make-difference.doc) for nomination forms.

For additional information about Staff Council, see [www.iupui.edu/~scouncil](http://www.iupui.edu/~scouncil).

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## Trustee Teaching Awards call for nominees

Each year the Indiana University trustees recognize excellence in teaching through a program known as the Trustee Teaching Awards. Recipients of this prestigious award receive a stipend, have their names displayed on a plaque, and are recognized at award ceremonies at IUSM and at IUPUI. In addition, the IUSM award recipients are recognized at the medical school commencement in May.

This year the criterion of excellence in teaching is the primary factor for selection. It is anticipated that 37 outstanding IUSM teachers will receive the award.

The awards committee needs help identifying IUSM's best teachers. Self-nominations are not accepted but faculty, residents and students may submit names to [meca@iupui.edu](mailto:meca@iupui.edu) by **Tuesday, Feb. 28**. When submitting a nomination, include your university status (student, resident/fellow or faculty) and include the nominee's department.

For additional information, see [meca.iusm.iu.edu/Resources/TTA.htm](http://meca.iusm.iu.edu/Resources/TTA.htm).

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## Nominations sought for IUSM Faculty Teaching Award

In 1992, IUSM inaugurated an annual recognition of superior teaching by its faculty. The purpose of the Faculty Teaching Award is to highlight the importance of teaching within the school as well as to recognize those who have excelled in this responsibility. The award is presented at the spring Faculty Meeting.

All full-time faculty and librarians within the statewide system for Medical Education are eligible. Nomination of previous recipients of university or campus teaching awards is discouraged. Serious consideration will be given not only to faculty who teach in the traditional lecture setting but also to faculty who excel as leaders of small groups.

To allow time for the Committee on Faculty Teaching Awards time to consider nominees and make final selections, materials should be sent to Sandra Herrin, Dean's Office for Medical Education and Curricular Affairs (MECA) at EF 200, 714 N. Senate Avenue, Suite 200 Indianapolis, IN 46202-3297 on or before **Friday, April 7**.

For additional information, see [meca.iusm.iu.edu/Resources/FTAC2006.htm](http://meca.iusm.iu.edu/Resources/FTAC2006.htm).

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## NIH program to foster researcher independence

The National Institutes of Health is accepting applications for a new award, the NIH Pathway to Independence Award Program. The program features a new opportunity for promising postdoctoral scientists to receive both mentored and independent research support from the same award.

The NIH will present between 150 and 200 awards for this program in its initial year, beginning in fall. The agency expects to issue the same number of awards each of the following five years. During this time, the NIH will provide almost \$400 million in support of the program. All NIH Institutes and Centers are participating in this award program.

The award will work as follows: The initial 1-2 year mentored phase will allow investigators to complete their supervised research work, publish results and search for an independent research position. The second, independent phase, years 3 to 5, will allow awardees who secure an assistant professorship or equivalent position to establish their own research program and successfully apply for an NIH Investigator-Initiated (R01) grant.

The first application receipt date is **Friday, April 7**. For more information, see [grants.nih.gov/grants/new\\_investigators/index.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/index.htm)

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## Biomedical Entrepreneur Network meeting Feb. 7

"Business Structure" will be the topic of the next meeting of the Indiana Biomedical Entrepreneur Network Tuesday, Feb. 7. Speakers will be Michelle Molin, partner at the law firm Ice Miller LLP, and Thomas Lunsford, manager at the accounting firm Katz, Sapper & Miller.

Registration will begin at 5 p.m. and the program will start at 5:30 p.m. at the University Place Hotel and Conference Center.

The program is free, but early registration is requested at [www.indianabionetwork.org](http://www.indianabionetwork.org).

The Indiana Biomedical Entrepreneur Network promotes information sharing and networking for biomedical entrepreneurs. Sponsors are the Indiana Health Industry Forum, Indiana University Research and Technology Corp. and Ice Miller.

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## QUOSA article management software demo

A QUOSA demonstration will be offered at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8, in room 122a, Van Nuys Medical Science Building. QUOSA is a product that works with Pubmed and Ovid to download articles for easy management on computers. It also works with Endnote and Procite to retrieve articles in those citation databases. For more information and some demos see the QUOSA website at [www.quosa.com](http://www.quosa.com).

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## International study opportunities topic of noon workshop

The Lunch 'N Learn workshop, sponsored by IUPUI HRA Work/Life, will be Friday, Feb. 10. The program, "Experience the World: Travel Opportunities for IUPUI faculty, staff, and students," will begin at noon in the Hoosier Room, second floor of the south wing of the Union building. Admission is free.

Discussion topics will include:

- Roughly 30 study abroad programs IUPUI currently has to offer
- Various sources of financial support for overseas travel
- Health, safety and other travel issues
- How IUPUI staff, faculty, and students can be involved

Presenters will be Susan Buck Sutton, associate dean of International Programs, and IUPUI's Director of Study Abroad Stephanie Lesli.

For more information, contact Lynell Lindle at 274-8935, or email [hrratng@iupui.edu](mailto:hrratng@iupui.edu).

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## Conference on Healthy Living – Feb. 22

The second annual Indiana University Conference on Healthy Living, sponsored by several schools on the IUPUI campus, IU alumni and the Indiana Department of Health will be Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Indiana Government Conference Center, South Auditorium, 302 W. Washington St.

Speakers will discuss obesity, cardiovascular fitness, diabetes, recreation and leisure and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Keynote speaker Lloyd Kolbe's lecture, "Obesity: The Perfect Storm," addresses one of America's most serious epidemics and its potential dangers not only to our body, but our economy.

The event is open to the public and costs \$25 for members of the IU Alumni Association and \$40 for nonmembers. This day long conference includes a buffet lunch. For a complete schedule of events or to register online, visit [www.alumni.iupui.edu](http://www.alumni.iupui.edu) or call 274-5060, toll free at (866) 267-3104. Registration is due **Wednesday, Feb. 5**.

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## Class offers tips on conducting electronic research

Researchers and staff who use the Medical Library and Internet electronic medical resources may be interested in the 2-hour, hands-on class, Locating and Using Electronic Resources. It covers the publishing process and presents tips on using databases and other virtual information.

Class time is from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 22, in room 318 of the Medical Library.

For more information or to register, call or email Elaine Skopelja at 274-8358, or [eskopelj@iupui.edu](mailto:eskopelj@iupui.edu).

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## Census mapping discussed at workshop

A one-day workshop, "Mapping Indiana Communities: An Introduction to GIS and Community Demographic Analysis Workshop" will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on three dates -- Wednesday, March 22, Thursday, March 23, or Friday, March 24.

This fast paced, hands-on workshop teaches the fundamentals of how to use a Geographic Information System (GIS)

in a way that is relevant to social service providers, planners and researchers. Participants learn to make thematic maps of their community, geocode addresses and perform spatial queries and analysis. Participants also will learn to extract and map Census variables such as race, poverty, language, education, health and many other demographic variables. Exercises are designed for beginners. Intermediate Excel skills required. Each student is assigned a computer on which to work for the day.

The workshop will be at the New Horizons Computer Training Center, 11611 N. Meridian, Ste. 200. The fee is \$399. To register online or for more information, see <https://www.urban-research.info/ur/workshops/workshops-gis.shtml>, or telephone 877-241-6576.

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## IU hosts National Conference on Dual Diagnosis

The National Conference on Dual Diagnosis: Integrating Neurobiological, Psychiatric, and Social Systems Perspectives on Co-occurring Substance Use Disorders and Mental Illness is the first multidisciplinary event dedicated to the topic of dual diagnosis held in the United States.

The purpose of the March 2-3 conference is to exchange and disseminate scientific information on the neuroscience, clinical phenomenology and societal impact of substance use disorders in people with mental illness and to provide an intensive and comprehensive examination of the serious and broad issue of co-occurring substance use disorders and mental illness.

For additional information, see [www.iupui.edu/~psycdept/ncdd.htm](http://www.iupui.edu/~psycdept/ncdd.htm), or call Kellie Hindman at 278-5838.

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## This week on Sound Medicine

Tune in at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, to *Sound Medicine*, the weekly radio program co-produced by IUSM and WFYI Public Radio (90.1 FM) in Indianapolis. The program is hosted by Barb Lewis. Co-hosts of this week's program are David Crabb, MD, Kathy Miller, MD, and Ora Pescovitz, MD.

Guests will include Erin Flanagan-Klygis, MD, co-author of the study "Dismissing the Family Who Refuses Vaccines," will discuss the increase in the number of parents who are reluctant to vaccinate their children. Her study appeared in the October 2005 issue of the journal *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*. She is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Rush Medical College in Chicago.

Mark Mattes RRT, JD, will discuss a new program that can teach individuals CPR in as few as 20 minutes. Mattes is a registered respiratory therapist and director of academic affairs for the Clarian Health Partners Department of Services Education.

Eric Meslin, PhD, returns for his monthly bioethics series on *Sound Medicine*. Dr. Meslin will discuss which major medical ethics stories from 2005 are still on his radar screen a month into 2006. Dr. Meslin is director of the IU Center for Bioethics.

Also returning is *Sound Medicine* essayist Eric Metcalf, who will relate his experiences with at-home teeth whitening. Metcalf is an Indianapolis based science writer and a regular contributor to *Sound Medicine*.

Archived editions of *Sound Medicine*, as well as other helpful health information, can be found at [soundmedicine.iu.edu/](http://soundmedicine.iu.edu/).

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## Scientific Calendar online

A comprehensive listing on IUSM seminars, lectures and Grand Rounds can be accessed at [www.medlib.iupui.edu/calendar](http://www.medlib.iupui.edu/calendar). To place items on the Scientific Calendar, please forward them to Iona Sewell at [imsewell@iupui.edu](mailto:imsewell@iupui.edu).

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### **Scope submission guidelines**

*Scope* wants your news items.

The deadline for submission is 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays. *Scope* is published electronically and sent to faculty, staff, students, and residents.

There are three easy ways to submit story ideas or information to *Scope*:

- e-mail the information to [mhardin@iupui.edu](mailto:mhardin@iupui.edu)
- mail the information to Mary Hardin, Z-7, Ste. 306, IUPUI
- fax your information to (317) 278-8722

Contributions submitted by e-mail should be forwarded in 12 point, plain text format.

In the interest of accuracy, please do NOT use:

- acronyms
- abbreviations
- campus building codes (use full, proper name of building and include the room number)
- Dr. as a preface before names (designate MD or PhD)

To keep the electronic version of *Scope* as streamlined as possible, only seminars and lectures of general or multidisciplinary interest will be included.

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