Indiana Clinical & Translational Science Institute (Indiana CTSI)

INITIATIVE
The Indiana CTSI is an NIH-funded organization that supports the entire state of Indiana. This partnership between Purdue, Indiana University and the University of Notre Dame, in association with key community and business partners in the state, will increase translational biomedical research to improve the health of people of Indiana and beyond. The NIH awarded a five-year CTSA of $25 million to the Indiana University School of Medicine in mid-2008 to fund Indiana CTSI activities at IU, Purdue and Notre Dame.

IMPACT
The Indiana CTSI served nearly 2400 investigators, including more than 303 Purdue investigators in the first six years, including grant awards, consultation and education programs. The Collaboration in Translational Research (CTR) program promotes collaboration by requiring that projects have two (or more) principal investigators representing at least two CTSI partner institutions. The Indiana CTSI has awarded 43 grants representing more than $3 million. Researchers from Purdue were involved in 29 of 34 projects representing over $1.1 million.

Regional alliances within the Indiana CTSI
Eight Project Development Teams (PDTs) have been established to help investigators enhance research designs and increase the chances of successful grant applications. The PDTs have reviewed more than 578 proposals and have awarded 234 pilot grants worth more than $3.2 million. The Purdue PDT has awarded more than $574,030 to support 58 projects.

Education and Training initiatives at Indiana CTSI are expanding the number of clinical and translational researchers. The K-Scholar program and the T-Trainee program provide funding for individuals at the doctoral level seeking to develop research and translational science skills; 59 T and 32 K awards have been granted. A summer internship program has been developed for college and high school students to promote interest in science careers. The program provided this experience for 60 high school students this year.

REPRESENTATIVE PURDUE PROJECTS
Marietta Harrison, Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, leads a collaborative research effort between the IU Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center and the Purdue Oncological Sciences Center that focuses on curbing colorectal cancer. The partnership subjects clinical samples to multi-parameter analysis to create a single “cyberenvironment” that is broadly accessible to researchers.

Jessica Huber, Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, has developed a device to help people with Parkinson’s disease speak more loudly and communicate more effectively. The device development was supported by more than $2 million from the NIH plus $10,000 from the Indiana CTSI, $18,900 from the Regenstrief Institute and $350,000 from the former Alfred E. Mann Institute at Purdue.