The Indiana Clinical and Translational Science Institute (Indiana CTSI)

**NEED**

The National Institute of Health (NIH) created the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program to improve the process by which the laboratory discoveries of basic science are translated into new medical treatments and products. CTSA institutions work to transform the local, regional and national environment to increase the efficiency and speed of clinical and translational research.

**INITIATIVE**

The Indiana CTSI is an NIH-funded organization that supports the entire state of Indiana. This partnership between Purdue, Indiana University, and 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.

**IMPACTS**

- Initially, the Indiana CTSI has focused on developing new programs, enhancing existing programs, and strengthening collaboration among the partner institutions to support the national CTSA goals.
- The Indiana CTSI served over 500 investigators in the first three years, including grant awards, consultation, and education programs. The Indiana CTSI 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 22 grants representing over $1.6 million. Researchers from Purdue were involved in 13 of 22 projects.
- Nine 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 over 324 proposals and have awarded over $1.4 million. The Purdue PDT has awarded over $330,000 to support 37 projects.
- The Indiana CTSI actively engages the community through the Community Health Engagement Program (CHEP). CHEP established the Community Advisory Council (CAC) to provide ongoing communication with the community about clinical and translational research. The CAC includes representatives from over 200 organizations. The CAC provides insight to community ideas about research. The Purdue Cooperative Extension Service provides an effective link to community health collaborations established on counties across the state.
- The Indiana CTSI commitment to expanding the number of clinical and translational researchers includes several programs. Twelve scholars have received assistance through the K-Scholar program, which provides a stipend for individuals who have already obtained a doctorate to acquire research skills. The T-Trainee program provides funding for individuals seeking a doctoral degree to develop translational science skills; 40 T and 28 K awards have been granted. A summary internship program has been developed for college and high school students to promote interested in science careers. The program provided this experience for 45 high school students this year.

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