Research in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

The Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition offers opportunities in clinical, translational, and basic science research. Mentorship of fellows is a top priority for the Division and our faculty have extensive expertise in helping fellows achieve research goals. Specific areas of interest within the Division include inflammatory bowel disease treatment, inflammatory bowel disease quality improvement, eosinophilic esophagitis, celiac disease, cystic fibrosis liver disease, fatty liver disease, cholestatic liver disease, acute liver failure, viral hepatitis, bioinformatics/clinical decision-making, endoscopic procedures, motility disorders and medical education. The Division has successfully been awarded funding from the NIH, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, pharmaceutical industry, foundations and local funding sources. Our fellows present at national conferences and publish.

Morris Green Scholars Program

The Morris Green Scholars Program was created to identify and support pediatric residents and fellows who want to develop careers as pediatric researchers, physician-scientists, and future academic leaders. Research opportunities range from basic and translational sciences to clinical, public health and health services research. Training is provided in research methods, ethics, presentation skills and grant preparation; mentoring is built-in with monthly meetings, annual retreats, and visiting professors. Funding is provided for scientific travel and books. See http://pediatrics.iu.edu/morris-green-physician-scientist-development-program/ for further information.

Clinical Investigator Training Enhancement (CITE) program

Indiana University has been funded by the National Institute of Health through a K-30 grant to prepare health care professionals for a career in clinical research. Following completion of the program, graduates can embark on a career in clinical research with the skills necessary to successfully compete for grant funding, conduct and analyze research findings, and publish their work in scientific journals. By participating in the program, CITE trainees will accomplish two primary objectives: 1.) Complete a two-year, formal clinical research curriculum, at the end of which they will receive a Master of Science in Clinical Research degree. 2.) Conduct clinical research under the mentorship of a faculty scientist whose discipline or area of clinical investigation corresponds to the research interests and career aims of the CITE enrollee. The CITE program can be completed during fellowship.

Pediatric Clinical Research Center

In 2010, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, and the Director of NIH, Francis Collins, visited the IUSM campus and the Herman B Wells Center for Pediatric Research and held a news conference to announce that IUSM would be one of the awardees of NIH funding for construction and renovation of scientific research laboratories. The $8.4 million grant for the construction of a new section of Riley Hospital is for an area dedicated solely to pediatric clinical trials. The grant has enabled IUSM to begin transforming a former research floor of Riley Hospital into the Pediatric Clinical Research Center. The 18,500-square-foot center houses laboratory, bio-storage, offices and other research-related space specifically designed for flexibility to accommodate the growing emphasis on collaborations between basic and clinical researchers and among researchers at different institutions.

Herman B Wells Center for Pediatric Research

The primary facility for basic science research in the Department of Pediatrics is located in the 750,000 sq. ft. state-of-the art research complex on the IU School of Medicine campus in Indianapolis. Since opening in 1991, the Wells Center has grown from four investigators and three employees to over 40 investigators and nearly 300 graduate students, technicians, and staff members. Work in the Wells Center focuses on basic science research discovery and translational studies, and seeks to rapidly move basic or bench research findings into the clinical setting. Research is focused on six areas currently including Developmental Biology, Developmental Cardiology, Hematopoietic Malignancies and Stem cells, Molecular Oncology, Basic Diabetes Research, and Asthma and Allergic Diseases. Wells faculty research programs have achieved national recognition and have an outstanding record for attaining peer-reviewed, external research funding totaling more than $11 million dollars in 2013, including funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the American Heart Association, and the Department of Defense. Of ranked Pediatric Departments, IUSM has consistently been in the top 5-8% nationally in NIH funding during the last 8 years.

Children's Health Services Research

Our Children's Health Services Research division (CHSR) is one of the largest and most productive research sections of its kind, with a dozen research faculty and a research budget of over $4M. CHSR investigators study pediatric informatics, decision sciences, health policy, and health geographics. Children's Health Services Research also manages a Pediatric Research Network which enrolls primary, secondary, and tertiary care sites that can efficiently recruit patients from a broad range of socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds for general and subspecialty protocols.