

The Edge

March 2007

ImmuneWorks LLC: A Product of the Indiana Life Sciences Initiative

David S. Wilkes, MD, Calvin H. English Professor of Medicine, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, and Director of the Center for Immunobiology and Michael J. Klemsz, PhD, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at IU School of Medicine have recently co-founded ImmuneWorks LLC. ImmuneWorks LLC is a product based biotechnology company developing novel therapeutics and diagnostic tests for patients with pulmonary conditions. The founders are using their expertise to develop natural molecules that prevent rejection of lung transplants, as well as a therapy for patients with pulmonary diseases. Their diagnostic tests are designed to measure novel biomarkers in these same patients.

[More Details](#)

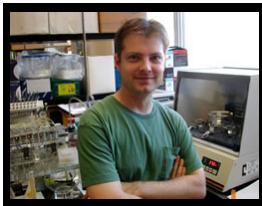
\$5 Million Center Grant to Support Research in Immunologic Connection between Atopic Dermatitis (Eczema) and Asthma

A grant of \$5 million has been awarded to the IUSM to establish an Asthma and Allergic Diseases Cooperative Research Center (AACRC). Principal investigator of the center grant is Mark Kaplan, PhD, director of Pediatric Pulmonary Basic Research in the Division of Pulmonology, Critical Care and Allergy, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at IUSM. The five-year grant from the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease creates one of nine such centers in the U.S.

"The incidence of allergic diseases is rapidly increasing in the developed world," said Dr. Kaplan. "This is commonly seen as asthma, rhinitis and atopic dermatitis (eczema), alone or in combination. While atopic dermatitis is rarely life threatening, affected individuals suffer both physical and emotional discomfort. Moreover, there is a high correlation between Atopic Dermatitis in infants and the development of asthma later in life, a disease that can be far more debilitating."

[More Details](#)

Science Without Borders — Collaborative Successes



Dr. William Sullivan,
Department of Pharmacology
and Toxicology

Dr. William Sullivan Jr., Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Center for AIDS Research, has recently received an American Heart Association grant to study "The eIF2-mediated stress response in protozoal heart pathogen *Toxoplasma*", a collaborative project with Dr. Ronald Wek, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics. This collaboration highlights once again "science without (departmental) borders" at the IU School of Medicine.



Maria Moreno,
Department of
Pharmacology and
Toxicology

Where are Our Students Going?

Maria Moreno, a current Pharmacology and Toxicology doctoral student will be graduating in May of this year. Maria has recently accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. Maria is jazzed about this opportunity as Our Lady of the Lake University is her undergraduate alma mater. We wish her all the best!



Dr. David Wilkes,
Calvin H. English Professor of Medicine,
Professor of Microbiology and
Immunology, and Director of the
Center for Immunobiology

Newsletter



Φ IUSM ranked in the top 40 of Best Places for Postdocs to work in North American Institutions: 2007 (The Scientist, March 2007).

Φ Drs. Mark Lasbury and Chao-Hung Lee from the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine have made important recent discoveries concerning the mechanism of how the immune system fights *Pneumocystis pneumonia*, a major cause of death in patients with AIDS.

Φ Dr. Simon Rhodes in the Department of Cellular & Integrative Physiology, in collaboration with colleagues in Germany, recently described a new form of pediatric hormone deficiency disease. The work included identification of the genes involved and will allow improved diagnosis, counseling, and treatment.

Φ Drs. Sherry Queener and William Sullivan Jr. from the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology have made a novel

Considering IUSM for Graduate Study but not sure where you will live?

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<http://www.apartmentguide.com/apartments/Indiana/Indianapolis/>