

Regenstrief Institute Open House  
Remarks of Michael A. McRobbie  
President, Indiana University  
1101 W. 10th Street  
Indianapolis  
Thursday, December 17, 2015  
3:00 p.m.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you, Bill (Tierney).

I am very pleased to be here today to help celebrate this superb new home of the acclaimed Regenstrief Institute here on Indiana University's Indianapolis campus—a building whose functional and beautiful spaces will shape the work of the investigators and scientists who inhabit them.

## 2. FOSTERING COLLABORATION

Like the institute itself, this new facility has grown out of a tremendous spirit of collaboration.

Today, more than ever, collaboration is at the heart of discovery. Only multi-disciplinary research can fully address the complicated issues confronting 21st century society, including many that are related to public health and to the life and physical sciences. Our scientists and scholars, then, must have access to spaces that enable them to engage in collaborative, multi-disciplinary activity.

The new Regenstrief facility is just such a space.

The mere fact that the building unites researchers who were once spread out across three buildings separated by more than a mile will create a greater sense of synergy and connection. The space will foster the collaborative, cross-disciplinary research necessary to fully address the complicated questions the institute's investigators and affiliated scientists are working to answer.

This new location will also enormously strengthen the longstanding successful partnership between the institute and the IU School of Medicine, IU Health, Riley Hospital, University Hospital, and other partners, including Eskenazi Health and the Roudebush VA Medical Center—all of which are now within easy walking distance of the Regenstrief Institute's new home.

### 3. THE REGENSTRIEF INSTITUTE

Today, we celebrate not only this splendid new facility, but also the tremendous success of the Regenstrief Institute over more than 45 years.

The institute has become one of largest life sciences organizations in the state of Indiana, and now has more than 60 investigators—the majority of whom are faculty members of the IU School of Medicine—165 staff members, and nearly 50 additional affiliated scientists, the vast majority of whom are also faculty members in the IU School of Medicine or other IU schools, including the School of Nursing, the School of Dentistry, the School of Informatics and Computing, and the Fairbanks School of Public Health.

The institute has been responsible for many successful major projects and enterprises that have contributed immeasurably to improved health in the state, around the nation, and around the world.

The Regenstrief Medical Records System, established through the institute, was one of nation's first electronic medical records systems, and it illuminated the ways in which electronic records can improve patient care. Much of the credit for its development goes to former director of the Regenstrief Institute, Dr. Clement McDonald, who served as Distinguished Professor in the IU School of Medicine, and now serves as director of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, a research and development division of the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

The Indiana Network for Patient Care, also established at the institute under Dr. McDonald's leadership, is now widely regarded as a national model for regional health information exchange.

The IU Center for Aging Research, which is based in the institute, is an international leader in interdisciplinary research that improves the lives and the health care of older adults.

And the Regenstrief Foundation has generously provided approximately well over \$100 million since 1969 in funding to support the life sciences, including the development one of world's largest and most comprehensive medical informatics laboratories.

Just to mention a few recent research projects, in the last few months alone, Regenstrief and IU investigators have collaborated

- to conduct one of the first studies of mortality rates and the long-term patterns of healthcare use of older adults with dementia—and the implications of their higher rates of visits to emergency departments;
- to demonstrate that participation in mindfulness-based stress reduction programs can have significant benefits for cancer survivors;
- to launch, along with the Roudebush VA Medical Center, a five-year Precision Monitoring program that will help promote high quality, efficient care and improve patient outcomes for many veterans;

and

- to develop a set of principles and benchmarks that can help ensure that medical research partnerships between industry and the academy are conducted with the highest ethical standards.

I want to commend Regenstrief Institute President and CEO, Bill Tierney, Chancellor's Professor and Sam Regenstrief Professor of Health Services Research—as well as the many IU faculty members past and present from various schools and departments who have been affiliated with the institute over the course of its history—as well as their colleagues from partner institutions. The contributions of hundreds of outstanding investigators, scientists, and staff members have made an enormous positive impact on healthcare in Indianapolis, the state, the nation, and beyond.

#### 4. COLLABORATING TO IMPROVE HEALTH

Indiana University's *Bicentennial Strategic Plan* embodies the university's commitment to fostering vitally important interdisciplinary research and to supporting the highest quality research, clinical care, and education in the health sciences.

The Regenstrief Institute shares those commitments.

This new facility will help the institute's investigators, scientists, and staff to build upon its well-deserved reputation as a global leader in biomedical informatics, health services, and aging research.

All of us at Indiana University look forward to celebrating the Regenstrief Institute's continued success and to strengthening our collaboration to improve state, national, and global health.

Thank you very much.