MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In 1997, the Indiana University Center for Aging Research was awarded $1.2 million dollars from Indiana University through the Strategic Directions Charter. Over the past six years, this start-up funding was supplemented by financial, administrative, and leadership support from the School of Medicine, the Regenstrief Institute, Inc., Wishard Health Services, and other University partners. The original proposal outlining the development of this Center included a five-year strategic plan that identified major benchmarks for success. As we enter our seventh year of operation, we can say with certainty that the Center did indeed survive beyond that original five-year plan. But are we thriving? Did Indiana University make a wise investment in this Center? Are we making a difference?

We answer these important questions with a resounding YES! From a financial perspective, the faculty and staff with a primary academic mission in the Center for Aging Research have secured $10 in extramural funding for every $1 represented by the University’s initial investment. In addition, we have attracted $3 in endowments from local philanthropy for every $1 represented by the University’s initial investment. As every year goes by, this multiplier effect grows. In this era of economic development in the Life Sciences, the Center for Aging Research stands as a wonderful early example of the potential of such research units. Consider the following:

- The Center provides jobs for a small but growing workforce of technical staff in the life sciences;
- The Center provides a focal point of access for community and academic partners seeking to collaborate on aging research with faculty at Indiana University;
- We serve one of the fastest growing segments of Indiana’s population—older adults; and
- We are still growing.

In our original strategic plan we identified four key benchmarks of success including:

- Involvement of more Indiana University faculty from a wider variety of disciplines in interdisciplinary aging research, and greater involvement of the local community in aging research;
- An increase in the amount of extramural funding for aging research conducted in collaboration with personnel or resources affiliated with the Center;
- An increase in the dissemination of this research as demonstrated by publications in peer-reviewed journals, changes in provider practice patterns, and participation in health care policy decisions; and
- Evidence of increased collaboration and partnership with the older adult community.

In this brief annual report, we present the data that demonstrate the remarkable achievement of this Center in each of these four areas. We are making a difference and ultimately our work will make a difference in the lives of older Americans.

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CUMULATIVE FUNDING 1997 - 2004

- Extramural Funds
- Endowed Chairs
- Regenstrief Institute
- IU Strategic Directions Charter

$5 million
$2.5 million
IUCAR CORE SCIENTISTS’ PUBLICATIONS

IU Center for Aging Research core scientists listed on pages 2 and 3 publish in a diverse scope of peer-reviewed general medicine journals, including the Journal of the American Medical Association, Annals of Internal Medicine, Journal of General Internal Medicine, and Medical Care. They also publish in geriatrics journals such as Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, Journals of Gerontology, and the Journal of Aging and Health and in disease-related journals such as Diabetes Care, Arthritis Care and Research, and the Journal of Bone Mineral Research. Selected research publications and abstracts are available on the Center web site at http://iucar.iu.edu/research/publications.php3.