



THE REFILL



An e-letter for ISU College of Pharmacy Alumni & Friends

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August
2005

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PHARMACY'S CHRIS DANIELS TO LEAD NEW DEPARTMENT

ISU forming Biomedical Research Institute

Idaho State University has created the ISU Biomedical Research Institute in an effort to increase the collaboration, efficiency and focus of the University's biomedical research activities.

Dr. Chris Daniels, ISU pharmaceutical sciences professor and former chair of the department, is the director of IBRI, which became a formal entity on July 1.

"In a nutshell, we've created the Institute to completely revamp and restructure how biomedical research is conducted on campus," Daniels says. "Currently, we have biomedical research infrastructure, resources, and personnel spread all over campus. It has become clear that we absolutely need to do this so we do not duplicate resources on campus."

As ISU is Idaho's lead institution for the health professions, focusing on biomedical research is a priority. ISU's biomedical research has expanded rapidly in recent years through the assistance of the Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN), which morphed into the Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) program, as well as other sources.

Five years ago, according to Daniels, ISU pharmaceutical sciences annually submitted requests for between \$1 and \$2 million for biomedical research funding. Last year, it submitted biomedical research funding requests for more than \$14 million. Pharmaceutical biomedical research has grown from

\$400,000 five years ago to \$1.6 million during the last fiscal year.

ISU biological sciences department has seen a similar growth in biomedical research funding. ISU funding requests are expected to maintain similar growth.



The major short-term goals of IBRI are enhancing collaborative work and providing additional resources for faculty to improve their research capabilities. The latter goal will be achieved primarily through improving the rate biomedical research funding requests are approved for the University.

"My major short-term goal is to double our rate of funding," Daniels says.

Other short-term goals in the next three to five years include establishing space for housing the administrative and operation units of the IBRI; establishing the basic infrastructure of the IBRI; establishing an "interactive nuclei" of researchers; establishing a strong relation with the Idaho Biosciences Association; inviting visiting scholars to do collaborative research; and organizing and hosting special topic workshops.

The major long-term goal of the IBRI is building a new campus facility to provide a research institute for all campus biomedical research. Other long-term goals

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include establishing and funding major research training programs, initiating new interdisciplinary biomedical-focused Ph.D program; continuing to work with the Idaho Biosciences Association; greatly enhancing specific federal grant funding targets; working with the ISU Foundation to raise funds and establish research funding endowments; and facilitating the formation of drug discovery groups and launching clinical trials originating from the IBRI.

The IBRI has four major focus areas, behavioral and neuroscience, bio-signaling and communication, functional genomics and biotechnology and health science and engineering.

“Our long-term vision is to establish a nationally and internationally recognized interdisciplinary biomedical

research institute where scientists, engineers, and health professionals from within ISU and from other institutions can interact synergistically, without the restrictions of the traditional discipline barriers,” Daniels says. “We want to break new ground and open new frontiers in the research areas developed by its membership.”

The IBRI’s steering committee includes pharmaceutical sciences professor Dr. James Lai, ISU Institute of Rural Health research associate professor Dr. Swamy Laxminarayan, assistant biological sciences professor Michael Thomas, engineering associate professor Dr. Solomon Leung and assistant pharmaceutical sciences associate professor Dr. Alok Bhushan. For more information on the IBRI, contact Daniels at (208) 282-2682 or (208) 282-4008, or cdaniels@otc.isu.edu.

A fond farewell...

The College bids farewell to Tressa Rockwood, Assistant to the Dean for College Development. Rockwood has taken a position with the Pocatello office of Piper Jaffray. Her final day with the College is August 5.



take time to join us...
College of Pharmacy & ISU events

- ISU Alumni Tumwater Picnic, Tumwater, Wash., Saturday, Aug. 13, noon. Sponsored by Pharmacy alum, Col. Garth Holmes. For more information, contact the ISU Alumni Association, 208-282-3755.

- White Coat Ceremony ~ August 18
- ISU Homecoming ~ September 23 & 24
- Pharmacy Recruiting Fair ~ Oct. 13 & 14, for more information, contact Andrew Gauss, 208.282.3393 or andrew@otc.isu.edu
- Pharmacy Treasure Valley Alumni Banquet, Saturday, October 8, Boise