



CONTACT: Lori LeRoy
317-238-2456/317-514-0095 cell
lleroy@biocrossroads.com

Fairbanks Institute for Healthy Communities enrolls first participants in the Indiana Health Study

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, June 5, 2008. Indianapolis is a health challenged community with some of the highest rates of obesity, heart disease, smoking and diabetes in the country. However, the Fairbanks Institute for Healthy Communities is working to improve the health of Hoosiers by enabling research that will lead to new and better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes. The Fairbanks Institute has begun enrolling participants in the Indiana Health Study, a landmark longitudinal study of the population of Indianapolis and surrounding communities. By enabling research that leads to better ways of managing chronic diseases, the Indiana Health Study promises to improve community and public health for generations to come.

The Indiana Health Study's first focus is on coronary artery disease. Coronary artery disease is the leading cause of death in the nation and claims the lives of more than 340,000 Hoosiers each year. The Fairbanks Institute is now enrolling participants in this study at the Alivio Medical Center in Indianapolis headed by Dr. Alfredo Lopez.

"The incidence of coronary artery disease in Hispanic and other minority populations is increasing, and we hope that our participation in the Indiana Health Study will lead to the development of new drugs and diagnostics that make our community healthier," said Dr. Lopez.

"Minorities have historically been under represented in research, and the Indiana Health Study's efforts to include minority groups as part of their longitudinal, population based research is an important step in allowing the development of therapies that are tailored to the unique needs of these populations and reducing health disparities," stated Dr. Virginia Caine, Director of the Marion County Department of Health and Chair of the Fairbanks Institute Community Outreach and Engagement Committee. "We are happy to have the Alivio Medical Center's help in building the community support and trust that are essential to the success of the Indiana Health Study.

Participants in the Indiana Health Study are asked to answer questions about their health and provide a blood sample. The collected information and blood sample are stored in a protected repository. Once a year, study participants are contacted to update their health information. By

participating in the Indiana Health Study, individuals can contribute to better community health.

The Fairbanks Institute is at the cutting edge of a national effort to provide medical researchers with biological samples connected to detailed clinical information for genetic research studies. “Our ability to provide researchers with access to high quality biological samples and data from diverse populations distinguishes our repository from others,” said Dr. Cynthia Helphingstine, President and COO of the Fairbanks Institute. “Research performed using samples and information collected in the Indiana Health Study will be instrumental in the achievement of predictive, preventative and personalized medicine.”

Along with the Alivio Medical Center, the Fairbanks Institute is also enrolling participants at other medical centers in the greater Indianapolis area including the Forest Manor Health Center, an Indiana University Medical Group primary care clinic. Dr. Anantha Shekhar, Director of Indiana University’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute, is overseeing enrollment at Indiana University clinics. “Collaborations like the one between the Fairbanks Institute and the community are essential to the ability of researchers to make breakthroughs that improve community and public health.”

People interested in being part of the Indiana Health Study should contact their physician to see if their physician is participating and if they meet criteria for participation. Physicians interested in being part of the Indiana Health Study should contact the Fairbanks Institute at info@indianahealthstudy.org.

About Fairbanks Institute

Formed with a \$10 million gift from the Fairbanks Foundation and the collaboration of BioCrossroads, Indiana University School of Medicine, Regenstrief Institute and other Indianapolis community health leaders, Fairbanks Institute is creating one of the nation’s most comprehensive resources for finding better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat the nation’s most common, chronic diseases. Through the Indiana Health Study, the Fairbanks Institute is assembling and maintaining a collection of biological samples and linked clinical and disease-specific information collected from the population of Indianapolis for academic and commercial research use.