



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tina Noel, 317.709.3103

## INDIANA SPINAL CORD AND BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH BOARD AWARDS 14 GRANTS

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Board awarded its first grants totaling almost \$1.7 million to 14 Indiana institutions and researchers.

“This is an exciting time for Indiana,” said Annette Seabrook, chair of the research board. “By awarding these first grants, it shows that the state is dedicated to investing in new and innovative research. These grants will go a long way toward attracting new researchers and projects to the state with the long-term goal of impacting the lives of Hoosiers with these disabilities.”

One of the main purposes of the fund is to support research related to the treatment and cure of spinal cord and brain injuries, including acute management, medical complications, rehabilitative techniques and neural recovery. The grants are worth \$120,000 each over the course of two years. Although collaborations are encouraged, the research must all be done in Indiana.

“These projects have the potential to positively impact health care costs, return individuals to the community and workforce or serve as a stepping stone to further economic opportunities,” said Joan Duwve, M.D., medical director for the injury prevention program at the Indiana State Department of Health. “The positive effects of this research will reach all across the state of Indiana.”

Of the 32 proposals submitted, following are the grant recipients for 2008:

- **Samantha L. Backhaus**, Ph.D., Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Foundation;
- **Ji-Xin Cheng**, Ph.D., Purdue University;
- **Eri Hashino**, Ph.D., Indiana University School of Medicine;
- **Jacob T. Kean**, Ph.D., Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana Foundation;
- **Rajesh Khanna**, Ph.D., Indiana University School of Medicine;
- **Wei-Hua Lee**, Ph.D., M.D., Indiana University School of Medicine;
- **Naikui Liu**, Ph.D., Indiana University School of Medicine;
- **Brenna C. McDonald**, Psy.D., Indiana University School of Medicine;
- **Alyssa Panitch**, Ph.D., Purdue University;
- **Anne L Prieto**, Ph.D., Indiana University – Bloomington;
- **Jenna Rickus**, Ph.D., Purdue University;

- **Thomas M. Talavage**, Ph.D., Purdue University;
- **Riyi Shi**, M.D., Ph.D., Purdue University; and
- **Xiaofei Wang**, M.D., Ph.D., Indiana University School of Medicine.

The Indiana State Department of Health is a member of the Indiana Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Board, which was created in 2007 by the Indiana General Assembly. Funding for the grants comes from motorcycle registration fees. Future grant cycles will occur annually. The next cycle is expected to open by January 2009. Visit [www.in.gov/isdh/23657.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/23657.htm) for more information.

###