



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

School of Medicine

Keith L March, MD, PhD
Professor of Medicine, Cellular and Integrative
Physiology, and Biomedical Engineering

Department of Medicine
Division of Cardiology

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Dear Supporters of the CMMRF:

We are indeed very pleased to greet you on behalf of the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine. Many of the advances of this Center have been founded upon and facilitated by the generosity of the Cryptic Masons' Medical Research Foundation. Our group is certainly grateful to Marion Crum and your tremendous philanthropy.

I wanted to share a bit about myself at both professional and personal levels. I was born in Boston, and after living in several cities while growing up and in training, settled in Indianapolis, where I have lived for the past 27 years. I completed my MD and PhD (in biophysical protein chemistry) at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN; followed by residency and a fellowship in Cardiology. While in Bloomington, I met my wife-to-be, Sarah, and we were married soon after I completed residency. Over the years, I have stayed at Indiana University for several reasons: a key one is our very collaborative environment, in which many faculty are willing and interested to work together as a team to achieve much more than single labs can do working separately.

At the Indiana University Medical Center, I have dedicated my career to bringing new medical approaches to patients, and facilitating the work of colleagues with a like interest. I have had the privilege of creating or working collaboratively to create a range of new technologies, of which multiple have led to approaches or devices tested in patients. This research has resulted in more than 40 worldwide (19 U.S.) patents, with others pending. The device that has likely had impact on the greatest number of patients is the Closer, a tool used to close the puncture wound in an artery following heart catheterization. This device allows a patient to "walk off the table" after a catheterization without requiring prolonged bedrest. Abbott Vascular, an affiliate of Abbott Laboratories, acquired the company that developed this technology in 1999; and the Closer approach has been used worldwide in more than 8,000,000 patients. This is many, many (!) more patients than anyone could ever see in a lifetime, and these experiences have shown me how research today can lead to important effects on patients of tomorrow. Thus, I am very committed to helping our organization create and develop new approaches that can affect the practice of medicine. I have seen it work!

My laboratory specifically focuses on blood vessel biology, with a particular emphasis on the stem cells found in fat tissue, which we found to actually be components of the blood vessels in fat. These cells are distributed on blood vessels much like repair stations on the roads of the body; and have a natural function to help with maintaining normal blood supply. This is why they can help other tissues, like insulin-secreting islets, to obtain blood supply; and I am anxious to help with approaches that use cells in diabetes as well as multiple other diseases. In 2008, I became Chair of the National Institutes of Health Monitoring Board that oversees National cell therapy trials in areas of heart, lung, and blood diseases.

975 W. Walnut, IB 441, Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 278-0130
Fax (317) 278-0089

Indiana University- Purdue University Indianapolis

With all my enthusiasm for invention and science, I am most grateful for Sarah and our family, which includes the four boys and two girls in the picture next to that of Sarah and myself. Their interest range from dogs and horses to 4-wheeler riding and coffee malted milkshakes while playing chess. They are a huge blessing and contribute much activity and chaos 😊 to our household! This reminds me always about the preciousness of life and health, and how important it is to try to assist with this in whatever ways we can.



Once again, I want to thank you for your time and your support. I sincerely hope that we can work together to advance the treatment of blood vessel disease and its complications in ways that best capitalize upon the team of investigators assembled at the ICVBM.

Respectfully Yours,

Keith March

Contact information

Keith March, MD, PhD
Indiana Center for Vascular Biology & Medicine
Krannert Institute of Cardiology
975 W. Walnut Street, IB 441
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202
Office phone: (317) 278-0130
E-mail: kmarch@iupui.edu
Web sites: www.vascularbiomed.iu.edu
www.stemcellsignature.iupui.edu