Indiana University Bloomington Provost and Executive Vice President Lauren Robel announced that Mohammad R. Torabi has been appointed dean of the IU School of Public Health-Bloomington, effective January 1, 2013.

"The entire campus is grateful to Dean Torabi for his selfless and dedicated service as interim dean, and for the vision and judgment he has demonstrated as the school has transitioned to its new mission," Robel said. "Enormous opportunities exist for the School of Public Health-Bloomington, especially as we align its new programs with the global initiatives on campus. I am looking forward to continuing to work with Dean Torabi in achieving a bright future for this new and promising school."

Dr. Torabi's research focus is in the area of measurement and evaluation of school and public health education programs and factors associated with health behavior. His research extends into health promotion and key factors related to individuals' decisions in the prevention of drug abuse, cancer and HIV/AIDS infection.

He has received numerous honors for his research and teaching, both from professional associations and Indiana University. Torabi is the former president and a fellow of the American Academy of Health Behavior, which is a premier academy dedicated to advancing research in this field. He is a fellow and charter member of the North American Society of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport, and Dance Professionals; charter fellow of the American Association of Health Education; fellow of the American School Health Association; and fellow of the Research Committee of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Dance.

"While much has been accomplished at the School of Public Health-Bloomington, much remains to be done. I'm confident that our world-renowned faculty, dedicated staff and loyal alums will continue working toward expansion of our mission of preventing disease, promoting health and quality of life, and health care cost containment for the citizens of Indiana and global community. This can be achieved through outstanding research, teaching and public health community engagement," Torabi said.

Mohammad R. Torabi, Chancellor's Professor, served as interim dean since late 2010.
New MPH Concentrations to Be Offered

A Notice of Substantive Change was submitted to the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) this month informing them of our new MPH concentrations: Family Health, Physical Activity, and Professional Health Education. There are now a total of eight MPH concentrations offered through the School of Public Health. Students will matriculate in all three areas starting fall 2013. For more information regarding each of these programs, contact the respective Concentration Coordinator(s):

Family Health: Bob Billing
Physical Activity: Jeanne Johnston
Professional Health Education: Nancy Ellis

Research Initiatives

The Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR) was established with the mission of working with individuals, teams, centers, institutes, and schools to foster excellence in research and creative activities and to offer support to faculty to successfully compete for external funding. One initiative developed by Dr. Sarita Soni, Vice Provost for Research, and her staff in the Proposal Development Services (PDS), is a resource to enhance the capacity of the IUB community to seek and successfully apply for external funding.

The PDS Team Members include: Meryl Bertenthal, Eva Allen, Louise Brown, Clara Henderson, and Suzanne Lodato.

If you are interested in working with the PDA Team, please feel free to contract them at ovprhelp@indiana.edu.

Six related workshops were co-sponsored by School of Public Health Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Michael Reece, and OVPR’s Dr. Sarita Soni, and her PDS Team. The first five workshops were held during the month of January on the 22nd (39 participants); 23rd (19 participants); 24th (20 participants); 29th (27 participants); and, 31st (25 participants) and focused on the areas of “Obesity, Physical Activity, and Nutrition;” “Sexual and Reproductive Health;” “Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs, and Addictive Behaviors;” “Environmental Health and Human Environments;” and, “Health Disparities and Rural Health,” respectively.

The final workshop was held February 7, 2013 and focused on the topic of “Health Economics.” Ten (10) people participated in the discussion.

All sessions were held in the School of Public Health, Room 125.

Spring Timeline

January – May 2013: Working Groups continue to meet (contact evsgold@indiana.edu to join a Working Group)

January – May 2013: Bi-weekly meetings of Core Group continue development of Self-Study

January – May 2013: Monthly meetings of Steering Committee continue to review progress on Self-Study