

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2008

Contacts:

Louise Schlesinger, WonderLab Marketing Director
812-337-1337 ext. 12 or louise@wonderlab.org
Dr. Peter Wallskog, Internal Medicine Associates
PWallskog@bloomingtonhospital.org

LOCAL DOCTORS AND WONDERLAB PRESENT MEDICAL CAREERS PROGRAM

Bloomington, Indiana—*What do you want to be when you grow up?* Local physicians hope the answer is “a doctor” because in Bloomington and the surrounding region it is getting more and more difficult to attract qualified physicians to meet the demands of a growing population and to replace retiring practitioners.

With this in mind, area physicians are collaborating with WonderLab to offer a special program, **Real Life Science: Doctors**, on Saturday, October 18 at the science museum. Research shows that children begin to make career choices as early as the fourth or fifth grade. According to Dr. Peter Wallskog, a hospitalist with Internal Medicine Associates who proposed the program to WonderLab, "If we can excite upper elementary-age and middle school students about a career in medicine, these hometown kids are our best bet for recruiting the next generation of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals to serve Bloomington and rural south-central Indiana."

Dr. Wallskog said that WonderLab was a natural partner for reaching local youth. "WonderLab makes science fun and exciting in a way that can be transforming," he said. Special activities will take place between 11:30 am and 3:00 pm. The program's target audience is upper elementary and middle school students. All activities are included with museum admission.

A dozen doctors, pre-med, medical students and faculty from Indiana University, and physician assistants will be available at stations set up throughout the museum to talk one-on-one about what it is like to be a doctor, to demonstrate how technology is used in medicine today, and to offer a glimpse of medical techniques of the future. A broad spectrum of specialties will be represented, including cardiology, pediatrics, anesthesiology, dermatology, urology, orthopedics, podiatry, general surgery, and emergency medicine. WonderLab will provide a variety of hands-on activities that demonstrate the basic science of medicine. Activities will range from building a mock brain and performing a "banana split surgery" to interacting with a patient simulation mannequin.

Real Life Science: Doctors is presented with grant support from the Precision Health Network Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, Inc.

WonderLab, a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been named a top 25 science center by the national publication, Parents. The museum is located at 308 West Fourth Street in the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District (BEAD). WonderLab's mission is to provide opportunities for people of all ages, especially children, to experience the wonder and excitement of science through hands-on exhibits and programs that stimulate curiosity, encourage exploration and foster lifelong learning.

The museum is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm, and Sunday, 1:00 - 5:00 pm. General admission is \$6.00 for children and \$7.00 for adults. Children under the age of one are free. Annual memberships are available. Member benefits include free admission to WonderLab and reciprocal free admission to more than 270 other science centers. Free, convenient parking is available in downtown Bloomington. For more information, go online to <http://www.wonderlab.org> or call 812-337-1337 ext. 25.

#