

# Connections Intended

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Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library

**David S. Wilkes is a physician scientist and an entrepreneur.** He is a practicing “bench to bedside” researcher, one trying to translate research into treatment for patients. The executive associate dean for research affairs and the August M. Watanabe professor of medical research at the Indiana University School of Medicine (right with lab technician Elizabeth Mickler) has devoted his career to finding ways to improve lung transplant survival rates. He founded and is scientific director of ImmuneWorks, an Indianapolis life sciences startup. In his role at the medical school, he directs the Endowment-funded Translational Science Initiative to find bright, motivated students to enter the physician scientist program at the medical school. Many of the Endowment’s recent grants have taken strategic aim at the building blocks for a successful economy in Indiana: improving the educational attainment rate, targeting areas of promise (medical research, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, logistics and advanced manufacturing) with educational programs, supporting outstanding cultural institutions, fostering an atmosphere of excitement and creativity around the “possibilities.” Making intended connections.

