



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

December 5, 2003

Richard R. Clayton, PhD
Interim Chair
Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health
College of Medicine
University of Kentucky
1141 Red Mile Road, Suite 201
Lexington KY 40504

College of Medicine

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Dear Dr. Clayton:

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health to move from the College of Medicine to the School/College of Public Health. I am currently a resident in the Occupational Medicine Residency Program and pursuing my Master's degree in Public Health (MPH) in the School of Public Health.

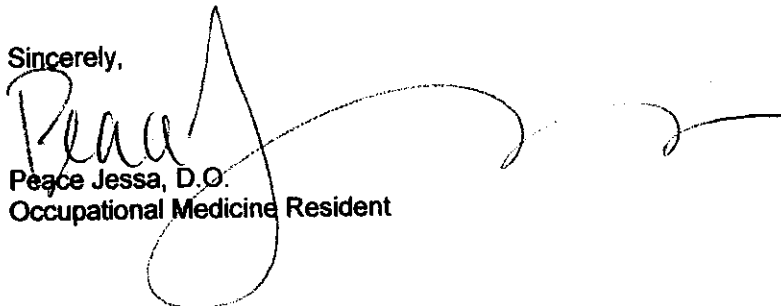
In participating in the MPH classes, I have come to appreciate the School of Public Health's available resources to facilitate and enhance education in public health issues. As a medical student, I did not fully understand the reaches of public health issues and processes. Even though we undertake a rigorous program in medical school, because public health administration is not a specific focus, much-needed resources are not available or accessible for it. Public health and its administration costs a great deal and as part of a medical college does not typically receive the focus that is necessary to provide the education needed to administer it at large.

As a result, I am very much in favor of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health becoming a part of the School/College of Public Health. Preventive Medicine is currently housed in the College of Medicine; however, I believe that the School of Public Health is better equipped to provide the necessary training for this program, since they have access to more resources to provide the critical background and training for public health administrators who want to get involved in Preventive Medicine.

In light of the national public health issues we have experienced in the recent past, it is only prudent to make available to Preventive Medicine all the resources that are available in order to ensure that we will be able to meet other public health challenges that will occur in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am hopeful that both the transitions from the School of Public Health to a free-standing College of Public Health and the move of Preventive Medicine from the College of Medicine to the College of Public Health, will be successful ones.

Sincerely,



Peace Jessa, D.O.
Occupational Medicine Resident

Dr. Tom Samuel

School of Public Health

University of Kentucky

Dear Dr. Samuel,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to voice my support for continuing the accreditation process at UK School of Public Health. For all the reasons cited in the resolution put forth by the Kentucky Student Public Health Association, having an accredited degree is crucial for our students. It is also a matter of remaining competitive. I have personally heard of several students preferring to go to Western's, or especially Eastern's programs. The person who talked to me about ECU specifically mentioned that the political/structural situation there seemed positive and stable, in great contrast to UK. To continue to attract the best students, and particularly the best faculty, accreditation is a must. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keisa Bennett". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Keisa Bennett, MD/MPH candidate

December 18, 2003

Thomas W. Samuel, J.D., M.B.A.
Acting Director
University of Kentucky
School of Public Health
121 Washington Avenue
Lexington, Kentucky 40536

Dr. Samuel,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I affirm the need for the University of Kentucky School of Public Health to seek accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) and to offer my support as the process towards accreditation proceeds.


I would like the opportunity to boast that I graduated with a Doctor of Public Health degree from a CEPH accredited school of public health. To me professionally and personally, as a current student, accreditation means quality, integrity, accountability, and recognition.

Accreditation has many benefits not only for current students but also for graduates, prospective students, prospective employers, faculty and staff, the university, and most importantly the public. Some of these benefits are as follows:

- Protection for the public through assurance that the school has been evaluated and judge to meet certain standards;
- Assurance that improvements are made in the quality of education;
- Assurance that the curriculum covers the essential competencies needed to meet the needs of the current workforce;
- Professional mobility and enhancement of fellowship, internship, and employment opportunities within entities that require graduation from an accredited program; and
- Assurance of an effective system of accountability and ongoing improvement for faculty.

Please accept my support for the accreditation process, and please let me know if there is any role that I may play in the process towards CEPH accreditation.

Sincerely,



Michelyn Wilson Bhandari, MPH
Doctor of Public Health Student
University of Kentucky School of Public Health

 **Public Health Foundation**
Washington, DC

To: Dr. David Watt and all UK Faculty and Administration
From: Chris Day, Alumnus, Kentucky School of Public Health
Subject: An Accredited College of Public Health
Date: 1/20/04



My name is Chris Day. I am an Alumnus of the first graduating class of the Kentucky School of Public Health. I am writing to support the creation of a College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky.

It is my understanding that there has been some difficulty in moving this process ahead. Accreditation is critical for students, the University of Kentucky and the Commonwealth. As a MPH graduate from the Kentucky School of Public Health I carry around the stigma as a graduate from a non-accredited program and a non-accredited school/college. In fact, when I meant Harrison Spencer, Executive Director of the Association of School of Public Health, he asked me what school I was from. When I said UK, he said "oh....." From his body language you could tell that he thought of UK as a "substandard" school because it is not accredited and not a member of ASPH.

Opportunities for scholarships, fellowships, internships and are severely limited by the lack of accreditation. I was not eligible for the public health honor society, Delta Omega, many positions at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as awards such as the Secretary's Award for Innovation in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Quite frankly, the level of my skill and competence in public health are also a major question by employers and practitioners in the field.

For most, just getting a degree is enough. Not for me! I have had to create opportunities for myself where UK couldn't or wouldn't create them. For example, I was the Founding President of the Kentucky Student Public Health Association at UK. In this role I was given the opportunity to participate on the KSPH's Executive Committee and participate in discussions about Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation and how to achieve it. From my work at UK, I was elected as the National Student President of the American Public Health Association, one of the only opportunities available that doesn't require a degree from an accredited school/college/program. In this role I have traveled the country and spoken to thousands of students regarding accreditation issues. Accreditation makes a difference. It puts you on the same playing field with students at Harvard, Johns Hopkins and the University of North Carolina, the *U.S News and World Report's* top three Schools of Public Health.

Accreditation also allows the school (faculty and students) to apply for grants otherwise unavailable. As an example, many of my classmates and I worked with the medical students at the Salvation Army Free Clinic for a few months. During this time, they requested our help to conduct an assessment of their patient population and help them write a grant to secure dollars for supplies and equipment to better serve this population. Because our students were not at an accredited school/college/program we could only pursue "healthcare" dollars and not public health dollars. The public health field as a whole has an extraordinary amount of money available to fund research and community based projects like this. Providing our faculty and

students with the ability to leverage these funds will help improve the fiscal health of the UK medical center as well as the health status of the Commonwealth.

In closing, I have been very successful as a graduate of UK. However, I am unique in many ways. I probably work harder, have accomplished more, and am better connected than 99% of students who come through UK's doors. I am usually not this direct or arrogant, but it is important that you know that I am more than a student/alumni with an opinion. In my work at the Public Health Foundation, I am involved in discussions about accreditation and credentialing of the public health workforce almost every day. A national exam, similar to medical boards, is currently being developed by ASPH for all MPH students to take before they can receive their degree. If this is just for Accredited schools/programs/colleges, how competitive will our students be if they don't have access to this test? Would you go to a doctor with no credentials? I wouldn't. No more than I would want Kentucky's Health Departments and other public health services to be operated by individuals that had training that didn't meet the national minimum standards.

I cannot tell you how IMPORTANT this is to Kentucky. If UK truly wants to demonstrate its level of commitment to the students and their families that pay tuition as well as the Commonwealth, it will move forward with this process. Accreditation is the ONLY thing that will help our graduates have a high probability of success in the field and it may be one of the most significant factors in reducing the burden of illness and disease in Kentucky that has us placing near last in almost all nationally tracked categories of health status.

Please feel free contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Day, MPH
Associate, Public Health Systems Improvement
Public Health Foundation
1220 L Street, N.W. Ste 350
Washington, D.C. 20005
W: 202-898-5600 ext 3006
E: cday@phf.org
Website: www.phf.org

Immediate Past President
Public Health Student Caucus
American Public Health Association
Website: www.phsc.org

Chair and Founder
Student Health Alliance
Website: <http://www.phsc.org/sha.html>

January 15 2003

Dr. Tom Samuel
Acting Director
School of Public Health
University of Kentucky

Dear Dr. Samuel:

I am a USPHS Officer (Environmental Health Officer Category) detailed to EKU and working with the Environmental Health Science faculty here on some joint projects between CDC and EKU. I teach part time at EKU and am enrolled in the Dr. PH program at UK. It was a shock to hear there was any question of going forward towards accreditation for the public health program at UK! As a current member of an accreditation committee for undergraduate programs in environmental health science I know the problems non-accredited institutions face. The truth of the matter, is that if they are not at least seeking accreditation, their students are disadvantaged in the job market. It is hard for me to believe that any one would challenge the concept of going forward for accreditation.

I now have three semesters in the Dr. PH program, and many other students have invested untold hours in a program we were told would eventually receive accreditation. Although breaking a valued trust with students, would be a critical error, in a broader sense, this is probably not as critical as taking away the opportunity for Kentucky, a state with a myriad of health disparities and significant public health problems, to have a first class School of Public Health.

Lack of accreditation would result in significant numbers of students leaving the program, and potential students choosing to go out of state to colleges where accredited programs exist. Kentucky would be the real loser, since many would probably find jobs in other states and not return. Most of the students I've talked with want to stay in Kentucky. It would be a shame to loose this large group of well educated, potentially well paid individuals with exceptional public health knowledge to other states when they are so needed here.

I personally would have to consider whether it would be worthwhile to continue in a program that is not seeking accreditation, and thus would be

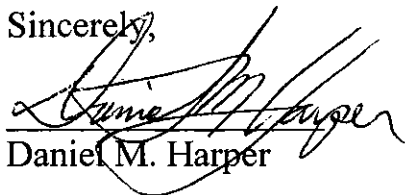
considered marginal by other schools, and by potential employers. It is difficult to imagine the program surviving long without accreditation. Recruiting quality students and faculty for an unaccredited public health program would be impossible.

I question the logic of allowing discontinuation of an academic program in public health while our country is at a time in history where there is unparalleled need for well qualified public health personnel. Not since the early 1900's has the need for good public health decisions been so critical. It is hard to pick-up a newspaper without seeing public health issues staring back at you. With threats of bio and chemical terrorism, a SARS epidemic that we are still trying to understand, diabetes and obesity increasing in epidemic proportion, this is not the time for public health academicians to retreat. I believe we must all step up to the plate wherever we are, and fight the good fight. The answers to the threats I've mentioned are not in curative medicine where so much of the tax dollars end up, they are in the realm of public health and prevention.

It is my belief that the graduate programs, and faculty that make them work, are doing a great job of creating a workforce that will rise to the gargantuan public health challenges of tomorrow. We should not allow the hard work of the students and faculty to be diminished, by giving out degrees from an unaccredited institution. This will be short changing the students by making them less competitive in the job market, and the faculty, who in my opinion are excellent and deserve the status conferred by an accredited institution.

I apologize for the length of my statement, however, I do feel strongly about this and I agree with the RESOLUTION put forward by the MPH and DrPH students strongly encouraging the establishment of an accredited (CEPH) College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. Please understand that I am speaking for myself, as a student in the DrPH program. I am not in any way intending this to be construed as having any connection with CDC or to my position at CDC and EKU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel M. Harper", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel M. Harper

Dr. David Watt
Associate Provost

January 16, 2004

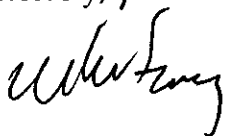
Dear Dr. Watt,

I am writing a letter in support of the establishment of a College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. As an active student leader, as well as the President of the Kentucky Student Public Health Association, I wholeheartedly support the development of a College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. As an elected student leader, chosen to represent the UKSPH students, I support the development of a College of Public Health on behalf of the current UKSPH students because of the numerous benefits and opportunities available to students as graduates of an accredited College of Public Health. Numerous public health training opportunities are available only for students from accredited schools of public health, as well as some federal jobs in public health are only available to graduates of accredited schools of public health. These are invaluable opportunities that would be available to the current students and graduates of an accredited University of Kentucky College of Public Health.

In our attempt as a student organization to encourage research, training, and service it is imperative for us, as the future leaders of Public Health in Kentucky to have equal access to these educational, funding, and employment opportunities that being an accredited college would provide. Kentucky has the highest mortality rates of lung cancer in the nation, as well ranking third in the nation in leading cancer deaths. These are just a few of the major public health issues facing our State, and as the future public health leaders of our state and nation, we need to have these opportunities available to us to be competitive in the academic and professional fields of public health.

As the president of the KSPHA, I support the establishment of a College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky, without reservation. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, ,



Whitney Katirai

December 8, 2003

**5902 Croft Court
Louisville, KY 40207**

Accreditation Committee
UK School of Public Health
121 Washington Avenue
Lexington, KY 40536

Dear Committee Members:

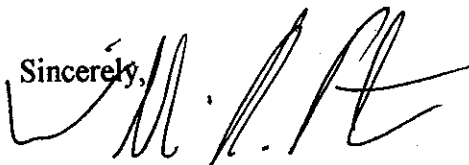
As a first year MPH candidate in the University of Kentucky School of Public Health, it is with great esteem that I address the Accreditation Committee on the issues of accreditation and the transition to becoming UK College of Public Health.

As a student, I am directly impacted by the School of Public Health's standing and repute in both the academic and professional communities associated with public health. Accreditation of our school will positively affect the ability of our students to compete with students of other accredited academic public health institutions upon graduation. We not only face competition issues for graduates but also for current students who vie for internships and practicum assignments while completing their respective formal masters and doctoral programs. These factors play a strong role in student recruitment, a component of institutional growth that we value in our school and university as a whole.

As an integral part of the University of Kentucky, the School of Public Health must be in accordance with the goals of the university in order to attract students and retain students. I feel that accreditation will place the School of Public Health in line with the university's aspiration to be in the "top 20" ranking of public universities by the year 2020. Subsequent high ranking of our school is sure to follow upon accreditation and individual departmental growth within what will be named the University of Kentucky College of Public Health.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to formally address the committee regarding this matter. I thank you for your time and effort in receiving this letter and I look forward to your progress as we move forward in the process of accreditation.

Sincerely,



William A. Porter
MPH Candidate

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. David Watt and all UK Faculty and Administration
From: UK Doctor of Public Health Students
Subject: An Accredited College of Public Health

When I began seeking my Master of Public Health degree at the University of Kentucky, I was assured that the faculty, staff and administration were dedicated to taking the necessary steps to become an accredited school of public health, which was an important reason that I decided to accept the offer to come to the University of Kentucky. I have been very pleased with my education and degree in public health, but now that I am a graduate of this program, knowing that there is any prospect that may result in not being able to say that my degree was from an unaccredited College is quite disturbing.

As a student in an unaccredited college of public health, the opportunities for internships are limited. When I was in my first year of study, I looked at numerous internship opportunities offered through the Association of Schools of Public Health at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention offices in Atlanta that fit well with my interests and abilities, but was ineligible to apply because I was not attending an accredited college of public health.

Spending time as a student and now a public health professional, I have come to realize that Kentucky is in great need of the support and influence that a college of public health could bring in order to positively impact the health status of this state, which ranks at the top of the list for tobacco, obesity, lack of physical activity as well as many other health disparities that affect not only their health, but also their quality of life. We have the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the health status of the state by establishing a College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky, and now is the time to move forward.

Thank you for considering my strong support for the establishment of a College of Public Health.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Redmond, MPH
University of Kentucky School of Public Health Class of 2003

Dr. Tom Samuel

January 18, 2004

Dear Dr. Samuel:

Furthering my education was apart of my goal to broaden my opportunities in the workforce. I elected to attend the School of Public Health at the University of Kentucky with the understanding that the University would move forward with the accreditation process. Graduating from an unaccredited program may limit the health training opportunities as well as my competitive position for some federal jobs in the public health area. It is very important to me, as a student, that the School of Public Health at the University of Kentucky be accredited.

Sincerely

Regina R. Washington

Research Assistant and Doctor of Public Health Student
Prevention Research Center



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

January 13, 2004

Dr. Tom Samuel
University of Kentucky
School of Public Health
Lexington, KY 40536

College of Medicine
Gill Heart Institute
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine
Room L543 Kentucky Clinic
740 South Limestone Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40536-0284
(859) 323-5479
FAX: (859) 323-6475
<http://ghi.uky.edu>

Dear Dr. Samuel,

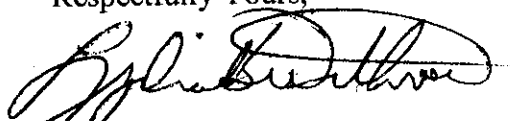
As a recent graduate of the KY School of Public Health and a nurse of over 17 years experience, I would like to express my concerns regarding the accreditation issue for the Kentucky School of Public Health (KYSPH). The staff of the KYSPH and the University encouraged students to enroll with the promise that the school would pursue and most assuredly receive their accreditation in the near future. This played a significant role in attracting the high caliber of students that were and are currently enrolled in the SPH programs. The issue of graduating from an accredited program can for all students mean the difference in receiving a good or specific job during their training and future.

Other issues that are critical:

- I. Many employment opportunities are open only to those graduating from an accredited School of Public Health.
- II. Future plans to Credential Public Health professionals will greatly impede those students graduating from unaccredited programs. Imagine if a student graduates from an unaccredited College of Medicine how different things would go in their pursuit of becoming a physician.
- III. Public Health is a critical part of our lives and Kentucky has significant public health issues and problems. Without a strong Public Health education program in this state Kentucky will continue to lag behind the rest of the United States in caring for its citizens. The State and University made the commitment to develop and begin a School of Public Health in an effort to address this issue, now is the time to continue fulfilling that commitment to the citizens of Kentucky and the students that have enrolled on faith that the program would continue to grow and become accredited.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Respectfully Yours,



Lydia B. Withrow, RN, BSN, MPH

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. David Watt and all UK Faculty and Administration
From: UK Doctor of Public Health Students
Subject: An Accredited College of Public Health

Those of us who have signed below not only support the creation of a College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky, but are very concerned with the problems that will result from our receiving a degree from an unaccredited College. At this time, we are ineligible for many attractive and career development internships that are sponsored through the Association of Schools of Public Health and located at the Center for Disease Control and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Only students from accredited colleges of public health are eligible to apply. And, in many instances, the same policies will apply when we will be looking for employment at graduation.

Additionally, many of us were told at admission, and have since seen internal documentation regarding the issue, that the University was committed to an accredited college of public health. Despite the clear misrepresentation that would result if college status was not approved, we find it inconceivable that anyone would object to the creation of an institution that has such potential to positively impact the health status of Kentucky's citizens. An accredited college's access to external resources and collaborative research efforts with other university units can contribute significantly to the efforts to understand and to improve the health of the people of Kentucky, a state that has the unfortunate profile for being a "poster child" for unhealthy habits and health disparities.

Thank you for considering our strong support for the establishment of a College of Public Health.

David Watt
Lauren Enoch
Shrestas
Chloe
Hudson Price
George Huse
Francis M. Chesten
Don Factor
John J. H.

John
Howard Sands
Mike Rookind
Michelle Puffer
Martha Sleng
Delia Bah
Royl E. Hill
John J. Huse
Reggie H. Huse
Phyllis G. Bryden

Laura M. Hall
Adam M.
Karen Clancy
Jessica Smith
Kevin Taylor-Pitts
Robert
Clare
Michelle Brundage

MEMORANDUM

To: UK Faculty and Administration
From: UK Master of Public Health Students
Subject: College of Public Health

The students in the Master of Public Health program wish to emphasize our support for the establishment of an accredited College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. Many of us were told during the recruitment and admissions process and at matriculation that UK was committed to the development and approval of an accredited College of Public Health. Some of us knew that entering an unaccredited MPH program would preclude us from participation in summer internships at the Centers for Disease Control and Health Resource Services Administration while others were surprised that it was the case. However, we were assured that plans to correct the situation, by approving a college, were moving ahead and that an accredited college was imminent, thereby avoiding our receipt of a compromised degree.

Public health is a service profession, so we are in the program because our objective is to make a difference in the lives of people. Many of us would like to provide that service in Kentucky, which is infamous for its high ratings among states in nearly all the disease processes that result from unhealthy life styles. We consider a strong, accredited College of Public Health as crucial to providing the necessary support to the public health infrastructure and to educational programs that ensure that the public health professionals in the state can positively impact the state's serious health problems.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns and hope that you approve the creation of a College of Public Health.

Uysha Dalseel
Laney Thomas
W. M. A.
Sha-Rhonda Martin
Rondeen Gordon
Karen Kryscio
Rebecca Rose
Opunt Thomas
Adwa K. Boahene

Naga perisetti
Rafael Rangel
Nat Anil
Tanika L. Redmond
Theresa S. Yeiser
Joe Shy
Lani Gray B
Apryl J. Clark
Yvonne Connor
Maria J. Cass

Lawrence R. Carter

Theresa Bacigalupo

Amy Fowler

Andre Brown

Whitney Katirai

Matin Katirai

duan m Stevens

Mary Risen

Ama Isaac

Jessica Berres Houlihan

Jennifer R Olges-Muyf

Arti Patel

Mei Zhang

Margaret L Sunquist

Jerin J Sluss Jr.

Maureen Delo

Alleah King

Thermaine A. Clark

Lerin Brewell

Adleigh Laucella

Laura Carr

Christina Baker

Peace Jensen

Elizabeth A. Masters

Kevin J. Chun

Laura Hackett

Maggie A. Parker

Kathryn Taylor Rutland

Arpana Sali - ARPANA SALI
mudrykian

Frank Pomeroy

Baretta R Casey, MD

Brander Huff

Kay Neumann

Elizabeth White

Nikki Boyd
Cofounder

Julia Sackett

Sum Hedgecock, PA

Kati Sheen-Morris