

October 18, 2019

To All It Concerns,

I write in support of two proposals from the Division of Public Health in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, School of Medicine.

- 1) To designate emphases within the Master of Public Health (MPH) curriculum.

These areas are in line with recognized expertise in the Division and student demand. Recognizing emphases within the MPH will help the Division offer focused programs of study to better prepare students for public health careers. Further, having emphases in Community Health and Global Health will help recruit excellent students nationally, and be competitive with other MPH programs.

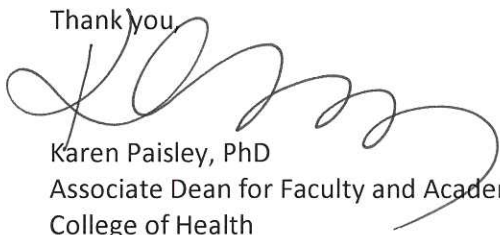
The proposed Global Health and Community Health emphases are not in conflict with any offerings within the College of Health, and I anticipate no negative outcomes should the emphases be approved.

- 2) To designate an Epidemiology Emphasis within the established Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health.

As a core discipline in Public Health, epidemiology has always been a primary focus of the PhD curriculum. The proposal to designate an emphasis will allow students to select a rigorous set of courses that will train them for careers in academia or public health practice and have that designation noted on their transcript. Student demand for such an emphasis is strong, with many potential applicants noting that they specifically want a degree that focuses on Epidemiology. The new courses to be developed will enhance the experience of all students in the program, even those not selecting the Epidemiology emphasis. Several members of the Division of Public Health faculty hold doctoral degrees and conduct funded research in epidemiology and epidemiological topics have been the focus of the majority PhD dissertations to date.

The proposed Epidemiology Emphasis is not in conflict with any offerings within the College of Health, and I anticipate no negative outcomes should the emphasis be approved.

Thank you



Karen Paisley, PhD  
Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs  
College of Health

HEALTH, KINESIOLOGY  
AND RECREATION

NUTRITION AND  
INTEGRATIVE  
PHYSIOLOGY

COMMUNICATION  
SCIENCES AND  
DISORDERS

OCCUPATIONAL  
AND RECREATIONAL  
THERAPIES

PHYSICAL THERAPY AND  
ATHLETIC TRAINING

October 2, 2019

Dear Committee Members:

I write in support of the proposals from the Division of Public Health in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, School of Medicine to designate emphases within the Master of Public Health (MPH) and Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health curricula and to create a Graduate Certificate in Water, Sanitation and Health.

At the MPH level, students have been requesting emphasis areas for years. Not only do they want an integrated course of study that focuses on a core topic area, they also want this specialization noted on their transcript. The proposed Global Health and Community Health emphases are in line with recognized expertise in the Division and student demand. Formally establishing emphases within the MPH will help with student recruitment, both regionally and nationally.

At the doctoral level, we propose an emphasis in Epidemiology, again in response to student demand and in line with faculty training and expertise. Several faculty in public health are trained in epidemiology and a larger number have funded epidemiologic research. More than half of the 43 dissertations completed since the degree began have focused on an epidemiologic topic area. This emphasis will require a few new courses which will be available not only to students in the emphasis but also to all students in our programs and across the University. We have hired excellent new research-focused faculty over the last two years and this has provided the depth to support an emphasis within the doctoral program. An emphasis in Epidemiology will help us recruit highly-qualified students from a broader geographic area, and prepare them for successful careers.

The Graduate Certificate in Water, Sanitation and Health will be available for current students across the University. It will serve as a standalone experience that supports international development and cooperation. The resources required are minimal and will add value to our Department.

As the Department Chair, I am proud of the long history of excellence in the Division of Public Health. I am committed to supporting educational efforts in the Division of Public Health and will provide resources necessary to implement these proposals.

Sincerely,



Kola Okuyemi, MD, MPH  
Professor and Department Chair  
The George D. Gross, M.D. & Esther M. Gross M.D. Presidential Endowed Chair in Family &  
Preventive Medicine  
Department of Family & Preventive Medicine