



Division of Biostatistics

September 7, 2007

Dr. Sherry F Queener, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Indiana University Graduate School
Union Building 207
620 Union Drive
Indianapolis, IN 56202-5167

Dear Dr, Queener:

Thank you for the chance to review the proposal for a new Ph. D. program in Biostatistics at IUPUI. I think this is a strong proposal and I am highly supportive of this program.

Let me provide you with a critique on several areas of the proposal.

NEED FOR THE PROGRAM

Biostatistics is increasingly becoming a crucial discipline in medical research. Most successful grant applications these days are collaborative efforts between clinical/bench scientists and biostatisticians. With the new emphasis by NIH on translational research there is an increasing need for well trained Ph.D. biostatisticians. This program will help to meet this demand in the Midwest and nationally. On reading the proposal it is quite apparent that this program also fits with the mission of IUPUI and its medical school.

CURRICULUM

The proposed curriculum is in line with most biostatistics curriculum. I would, however, suggest that students be exposed to some statistical genetics in a required course. Also it is critical that biostatistics Ph.D. students have consulting experience while in graduate school. Many students are hired directly into faculty positions where they are expected to do collaborative work rather than teach. The proposal did not really express what students would do for support. I would also encourage the program to make use of their extensive industry connections to help in the applied training of the students.

FACULTY

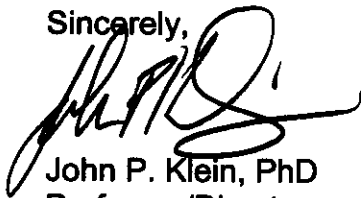
The leadership proposed for the program is excellent. Professors Boukai and Katz are well known in the statistical and biostatistical community. The proposed faculty is a good mix of senior and junior faculty that should be able to mentor these students.

DEMAND FOR PROGRAM

There is a demand for Ph.D. programs in biostatistics. Even without the large master's level base available to this program we turn away over 40-50 applicants a year to a space limited program at MCW. This new program should not have a problem finding students for the program.

To summarize this is a strong proposal which I would strongly suggest that the University of Indiana approve. I look forward to tracking the progress of this program. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Klein', written over the printed name.

John P. Klein, PhD
Professor/Director
Division of Biostatistics
Department of Population Health