



Regenstrief Institute

*Advancing health care through
research, development and education.*

November 30, 2008

G. Marie Swanson, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Chair
Department of Public Health
IU School of Medicine
714 N. Senate Avenue, EF250
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Dear Marie,

Thank you for an opportunity to review the proposal for a Ph.D. Program in Epidemiology at IU School of Medicine. I enthusiastically support the development of this program on our campus. In my six and one-half years at IU School of Medicine and Regenstrief Institute, it has become clear to me that the availability of doctoral-level expertise in epidemiology has often been a success-limiting resource in the preparation of competitive proposals for interdisciplinary team-based research in health, health care, and health services research. This shortfall in our on-campus intellectual resources also adversely affects the conduct of research once extramural funding has been achieved. The recent NIH award to IUPUI of the Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute will only exacerbate this critical situation. I believe that a doctoral program in epidemiology would galvanize the development of a significantly larger cadre of research epidemiologists on the IUPUI campus - through recruitment of additional faculty and retention of program graduates who are prepared to conduct the many varieties of epidemiologic research that are visible on research-intensive health sciences campuses today – including research in the determinants of health, medical care utilization, injury control, prevention, molecular epidemiology, cancer epidemiology, cardiovascular epidemiology, and research in still other domains of inquiry. From my perspective, a campus investment in the development of this proposed program should be a high-priority strategic action for the good of all programs of research in the life sciences on our campus.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas S. Inui, Sc.M., M.D.
President and CEO, Regenstrief Institute
Sam Regenstrief Professor of Health Services Research
Associate Dean for Health Care Research, and
Professor of Medicine
Indiana University School of Medicine

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner



Indiana State
Department of Health
An Equal Opportunity Employer

December 1, 2008

G. Marie Swanson, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Chair
Indiana University School of Medicine
Department of Public Health
714 North Senate
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dear Marie:

I was very pleased to learn that your department is planning to offer a new Ph.D. program in Epidemiology. There is a great need for doctoral training in epidemiology here in Indiana, as your department is the only one in the state that offers graduate level training in epidemiology, through your MPH program. I know that many of your MPH graduates and other public health professionals who are employed by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) will be very interested in your new doctoral program.

There is a shortage of epidemiologists nationally who are trained at the doctoral level, so I am especially pleased to know that we will be contributing to reducing that shortage through your efforts in Indianapolis. Not only will this enhance public health practice, but also there is a need for epidemiologists with doctorates in the private sector, such as Eli Lilly & Company, health services corporations, and health-related non-governmental organizations. The larger county health departments also have need for epidemiology leaders with this highest level of education.

Both within Indiana, nationally, and internationally, increasing the number of Ph.D. epidemiologists will strengthen public health preparedness, as this is one critical area in which there is a clear shortage of these public health professionals. In addition, I know that ISDH will be an important link for doctoral level coursework and for doctoral dissertations. As the State Health Commissioner for Indiana, I am pleased to see you develop this program which will enhance academic public health in our state, bringing us one step closer to meeting the highest national standards.

Thank you for sending me your draft proposal for this new Ph.D. program to review. I support this effort with great enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

JUDITH A. MONROE, M.D.
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Office of the Dean

December 1, 2008

G. Marie Swanson, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Chair
Department of Public Health
Indiana University School of Medicine
714 North Senate Avenue, EF 250
Indianapolis IN 46202

Dear Marie:

When I approved your request to begin planning a new doctor of philosophy program in epidemiology last August, I was pleased to have the opportunity to support this very important expansion of doctoral level training in the health sciences. This program's importance extends well beyond the School of Medicine and the graduates of your department's MPH program. I am confident that this new doctoral program will be of considerable interest to the other health professions on this campus—nursing, dentistry, rehabilitation sciences and pharmacy.

Taking graduate offerings to the doctoral level in epidemiology will benefit Indiana University, IUPUI, and the School of Medicine in many ways:

- offering graduates a new program of great interest, importance and opportunity
- enhancing the research capacity of the IU School of Medicine and IUPUI
- bringing us one step closer to meeting the criteria needed to establish a school of public health
- strengthening academic public health on our campus and in Indiana
- enhancing educational collaborations by bringing faculty together to teach in this program from across the School of Medicine and other IUPUI schools

A major new Indiana initiative is the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (ICTSI), which has a primary goal to strengthen life sciences collaborations in translational research and education throughout the state of Indiana and reaching into neighboring states, as well. Epidemiology is one of the disciplines that are key to the success of translational research; thus I know that this new program will further strengthen our CTSI as we already plan for its renewal in four years. Within the School of Medicine and many of its centers, such as the IU Simon Cancer Center, I also know that recruiting faculty in epidemiology is challenging. This new program will enable us to be more competitive in our efforts to recruit faculty in epidemiology, since having the opportunity to train doctoral students is critical to our ability to recruit.

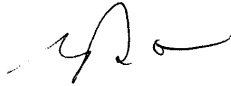
G. Marie Swanson, Ph.D., M.P.H.

December 1, 2008

Page 2

This is a time when expanding doctoral level training is of considerable importance. I am pleased that your department has taken the leadership to plan and establish this new doctorate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Brater', with a stylized flourish at the end.

D. Craig Brater, M.D.
Vice President, Indiana University
Dean and Walter J. Daly Professor,
Indiana University School of Medicine

DCB/lab



December 3, 2008

G. Marie Swanson, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Chair
Department of Public Health
IU School of Medicine
714 N Senate Avenue, EF250
Indianapolis, IN 46202


Dear Dr. Swanson:

On behalf of the Fairbanks Institute for Healthy Communities, I am happy to write a very enthusiastic letter of support for your proposal to establish a Ph.D. program in epidemiology on the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) campus. This program will meet a critical and growing national need for researchers who can help unravel the multitude of factors that determine an individual's state of health or disease so that new and better ways of preventing, diagnosing and treating disease can be developed. By expanding the base of epidemiologic expertise in Central Indiana, the program will directly support the activities of the Fairbanks Institute and make a significant contribution to our success.

As you know, the Fairbanks Institute is a not-for-profit organization formed with a \$10 million gift from the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation and the collaboration of BioCrossroads, Indiana University School of Medicine, Regenstrief Institute and other Indianapolis community health leaders. Our mission is to improve community health by enabling research that leads to better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat common chronic diseases. To accomplish our mission, we are creating a resource for discovery research based on the integration of biological samples with comprehensive clinical, demographic and epidemiological information collected in a longitudinal study of the Indianapolis population. Epidemiological input is fundamental to our ability to design a study that will yield samples and information that have the highest possible scientific value. Increasingly, population-based studies such as the Fairbanks Institute's are being used to collect the high quality biological samples and personal health, lifestyle and environmental information needed for the genomic research studies that are essential to the achievement of personalized medicine. This trend highlights the growing need for Ph.D. epidemiologists and the importance of the proposed Ph.D. program.

The Fairbanks Institute wholeheartedly supports the proposal to establish a Ph.D. program in epidemiology in the School of Public Health at IUPUI. We look forward to having this important resource available in Indiana and to working with students in the program to take full advantage of opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration.

Sincerely,


Cynthia Helphingstine, Ph.D.
President and COO

PURDUE

UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Department of Health and Kinesiology

Professor Marie Swanson
Chair, Department of Public Health
Indiana University School of Medicine
714 N. Senate Avenue EF 250
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-3297

December 02, 2008

Dear Dr. Swanson:

I write in support of your proposed PhD degree program in Epidemiology to be offered by the faculty of the Department of Public Health, the Indiana University School of Medicine.

I have carefully examined the proposal and I concur with your justification for providing this important educational opportunity in the State of Indiana, with the Department of Public Health as the institution best suited to offer the degree.

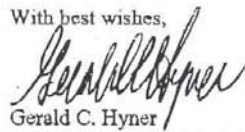
As you know, Purdue University has recently developed a Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree program. As justification for the need to offer our graduate degree, we examined the public health needs of the State of Indiana, and the progress we were making in addressing the leading health indicators for our State and the nation. There is no doubt that there is an acute shortage of trained public health professionals and that this will likely increase in the short term. Epidemiology, a core public health specialization, is in particular demand. A number of our MPH graduates will seek opportunities to further their education in epidemiological research because of its critical importance to the provision of evidence-based healthcare, public policy development, national security, and the evaluation of progress toward meeting state and national health goals. Students will be drawn to an advanced degree in epidemiology because of the many opportunities that such an education will provide in diverse settings such as business, academe, government, non-profit agencies, and medicine. This is particularly true in Indiana where the economic future of the State is dependent on the health of our children and adults.

I am aware of the professional workshop on doctoral education in epidemiology convened by the American College of Epidemiology and the Association of Schools of Public Health in 2002. I am also familiar with the accreditation guidelines of the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). The core competencies and expectations provided by the professional organizations in public health have been addressed by your proposal. I have examined the curriculum that you have designed and the opportunity for students to conduct original dissertation research; the principal feature and penultimate expectation of a doctoral degree plan-of-study.

The core faculty of the Department of Public Health is fully capable of directing this PhD program. Indeed, the faculty members you have listed in your proposal have distinguished themselves in their research, teaching, and success in attracting extramural funding. Doctoral students will be advised by leaders who have contributed to the field of epidemiology and there will be ample opportunities for the graduate students to engage in substantive research.

In summary, I support your proposal and look forward to future collaboration with your faculty and students. For those MPH graduates of our program who seek advanced training in epidemiology, I can say without reservation that I would recommend your faculty and the program you have proposed at the Department of Public Health, IU School of Medicine.

With best wishes,



Gerald C. Hyner
Professor of Public Health
Director, MPH Program



College of Liberal Arts

Lambert Fieldhouse ■ 800 W. Stadium Avenue ■ West Lafayette, IN 47907-2046



**MELVIN AND BREN SIMON
CANCER CENTER**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

December 2, 2008

G. Marie Swanson, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Chair
Indiana University School of Medicine
Department of Public Health
714 North Senate
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Dear Marie:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to support your proposal for doctoral level training in epidemiology. As you know, the IU Simon Cancer Center has struggled in its efforts to recruit faculty in epidemiology. This is a discipline that is very critical to the future of the IU Simon Cancer Center, in particular its development towards an NCI designation as a comprehensive cancer center.

A Ph.D. program in epidemiology will facilitate our efforts to recruit faculty, since having the opportunity to train doctoral students will attract the most qualified faculty. This program also will enable us to offer doctoral training for clinicians and others who wish to become independent investigators in this area.

Interdisciplinary collaborations are a key feature of the IU Simon Cancer Center across our programs. These collaborations extend to our connections with the Purdue Cancer Center which are focused on cancer prevention. Thus the Ph.D. program that you propose in epidemiology will facilitate and strengthen our connections across Indiana.

The program leaders of the IU Simon Cancer Center have clearly stated that one of the top priorities is to increase the number of epidemiologists engaged in cancer research here. It is clear that your new doctoral program will do just that. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my enthusiastic support for your Ph.D. program in epidemiology.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Loehrer, Sr., M.D.
Kenneth Wiseman Professor of Medicine
Director, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Deputy Director, IU Simon Cancer Center
Indiana University School of Medicine



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Division of Biostatistics
Indianapolis

December 3, 2008

G. Marie Swanson, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Chair
Department of Public Health
IU School of Medicine
714 N. Senate Avenue, EF250
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Dear Marie,

As you know from my participation in the planning process, I am an enthusiastic supporter of the proposal to establish a PhD program in Epidemiology within the Department of Public Health at IUPUI. The establishment of this program would be the next valuable piece to the life sciences initiative in Central Indiana. Given the shortage of PhD trained epidemiologists, both locally and nationally, the program will fill a definite need. The new program should be especially well received by the graduates of the MPH program and other health related disciplines on our campus as well as public health practitioners in the area and around the country.

The Division of Biostatistics is a core resource of the Indiana University School of Medicine and we are involved in a large number of collaborative research projects with health sciences investigators from the schools of medicine, dentistry and nursing. We also have an educational mission that includes our newly developed PhD program in Biostatistics. I believe that a doctoral degree program in epidemiology will be a great benefit to both of these areas. In my 24 years at IUPUI I have often been asked about the availability of epidemiologic expertise on campus but there have only been a few doctoral level epidemiologists in that time and they were always over committed. Therefore, research projects and funding applications suffered from this lack of expertise. Hopefully, a supply of local graduates would remedy this situation. I also believe that that the Biostatistics and Epidemiology degree programs will have a synergistic relationship as they do at many schools of public health. Our students will be able to obtain a strong background in epidemiology and the students in the epidemiology program will have the opportunity to further develop their quantitative skills through courses that our program offers.

In summary, I want to again offer my highest level of support to this endeavor. I believe that it will offer a new and exciting opportunity to prospective students, greatly enhance the research capacity on campus, and, along with our new program, be an important step to finally establishing a school of public health in the State of Indiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry", with a stylized, flowing script.

Barry P. Katz, Ph.D.
Professor and Director

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
INDIANAPOLIS

SCHOOL OF
LIBERAL ARTS



G. Marie Swanson, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Chair
Department of Public Health
IU School of Medicine
swanson3@iupui.edu
714 N Senate Avenue, EF250

Dear Marie:

On behalf of the Polis Center and the associated Signature Center for Health Geographics, I am pleased to support the Department of Public Health's proposal to establish a PhD program in epidemiology. Approval of this program would greatly enhance the work we do in understanding the spatial context of health-related issues. It also would allow us to expand the projects we do in the translational research programs in the IU School of Medicine.

At IUPUI, there are unique opportunities for researchers to investigate social and physical determinants of population health, based on the availability of high-resolution, geographically-referenced region-wide health informatics and environmental data in combination with IUPUI expertise in geographic information systems and spatial analytic methodologies. Although we have world-class data and technology resources to support research in the spatial and social determinants of public health, we need the readily available expertise in epidemiology and spatial statistics required to define and execute world-class, competitive research projects in the health geographics.

A doctoral program in epidemiology would remedy this deficit. It would bring new faculty to campus and train researchers capable of supporting campus research interests in exposure modeling, exploratory disease mapping, spatial data transformation, and other spatial analytics that are helpful in understanding the spatio-social context of disease and prevention. The initiation of a doctoral program in epidemiology is particularly timely with the recent founding of the IUPUI Center for Health Geographics (2008), the Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (2008), and the IU Center for Environmental Health (2006). In association with these initiatives, a PhD program in epidemiology would quickly elevate IUSM to the first ranks of institutions investigating the social and environmental context of health and would help IUSM and IU researchers become even more successful in grant funding and publication.

We look forward to the approval of the program and to continuing our collaboration with public health researchers in health geographics. With the PhD program in epidemiology, I am confident that we will be able to achieve our ambitious goal of building a nationally recognized program in this increasingly important field.

Best wishes,

David J. Bodenhamer
Executive Director and Professor

IUPUI
1200 Waterway Boulevard
Suite 100
Indianapolis, Indiana
46202
317-274-2455
Fax: 317-278-1830

