



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Office of the Dean

September 21, 2009

Sherry F. Queener, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, IU Graduate School
Director, IUPUI Graduate School
Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology,
Indiana University School of Medicine
UN 207
IUPUI

Dear Sherry:

As Dean of the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM), I am very pleased to write in support of the Herron School's Art Therapy proposal. Here at IUSM, we are well aware of the therapeutic benefit art can have for our patients. We have found art to be particularly beneficial for our patients who are living with cancer. The ability to communicate their fears and feelings through artistic expression both allows these patients to get more in touch with themselves and to help others better understand what they are going through. Our Riley Hospital patients, many of whom are too young to read or write, often reveal things through their artwork that they are unable to express in words, thus allowing their doctors and nurses to address these unspoken issues.

We anticipate the Art Therapy program will put educational parameters around what we already know to be a positive relationship between our patients and art. Art as therapy is a concept whose time has come. The Art Therapy program will be a welcome addition to the graduate programs available at IUPUI and IU.

Sincerely,

D. Craig Brater, M.D.
Dean and Walter J. Daly Professor

DCB/lab

cc Jennifer Lee