



**Community**  
Physicians of Indiana

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October 20, 2009

Augustine O. Agho, Ph.D  
Dean and Professor  
Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis  
Coleman Hall 120  
1140 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5119

Dr. Agho:

Community Physicians of Indiana is very excited about the possibility of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis pursuing a Physician Assistant training program. As a large primary care group we see a significant need for training more Physician Assistants in Indiana.

We wish you well with your project and look forward to providing whatever assistance we can in making the program a success.

Tim Hobbs, MD, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer

Patrick Rankin, MD, MMM  
Chief Medical Officer



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**  
**HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND PRELAW CENTER**  
University Division  
Bloomington

October 9, 2009

Dr. Augustine O. Agho  
Dean and Professor  
Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis  
Coleman Hall 120  
1140 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5119

Dear Dean Agho:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program, in the Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

As the pre-physician assistant advisor in IU Bloomington's Health Professions and Prelaw Center (HPPLC) these past four years, I have seen the need for such a program first hand. HPPLC serves the entire Indiana University Bloomington community, freshmen through seniors, and alumni, as well as departmental academic advisors, by offering preprofessional advising and consultation for twenty health fields. For certain programs, HPPLC offers advising simply because IU offers these programs; for instance, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and medical school. For some fields, however, even if the related degree is not offered at IU, we feel compelled to offer advising and additional resources because the need becomes so great. These students then go on to apply to programs outside of Indiana University. Physician Assistant is one such field. In spite of the fact that IU does not offer a physician assistant program, I nonetheless work with dozens of pre-PA students. In fact, the number of pre-PA students with whom I meet has grown exponentially, tripling or quadrupling over the past four years. This increase is undoubtedly due in part to increased student awareness of HPPLC's preprofessional advising services, but it is also clear from talking with these students that the increase is largely due to a growing awareness of the PA profession itself.

While it is not possible to perfectly track the total number of pre-physician assistant students currently enrolled at IU Bloomington, there is ample evidence of a dramatic increase in their

numbers. The number of students who subscribe to HPPLC's pre-PA email list has increased 72% since October 2006. Similarly, the number of IUB students declaring a formal interest in pursuing PA increased 168% between August 2008 and August 2009, according to Summer Orientation Program statistics. In addition, attendance of my pre-PA group advising sessions increased 60% between fall 2008 and fall 2009, and attendance of an information session by the Butler University PA program increased by over 300% from last year. Most dramatically, the number of pre-PA advising appointments on my calendar increased by over 500% from spring 2008 to spring 2009; and during the first three weeks of the current semester, I held as many pre-PA appointments as during the entire fall 2008 semester. As a further sign of the times, I have also been collaborating with the newly-formed IU Bloomington PA Club, which recently held a successful inaugural meeting. The formation of this club obviously reflects the growing interest in the field as borne out by the figures above. A conservative educated guess would put the number of pre-physician assistant students currently enrolled at IUB at two hundred, perhaps more. One wonders how many pre-PA students must be present at other Indiana colleges and universities.

Furthermore, nearly all of the pre-PA students I talk with express disappointment that Indiana University offers no physician assistant program, and they are dismayed to learn that the IU School of Medicine once offered a PA program, but discontinued it. This sentiment holds true for both Indiana and non-Indiana residents already on the pre-PA path at IUB, as well as prospective students and parents with whom I meet, many of whom are still in the process of deciding whether or not they wish to attend Indiana University. Some prospectives have expressed disappointment when they learn that they cannot continue on to earn a physician assistant degree within the Indiana University system. Such conversations hint at the recruitment potential of an IU PA program.


A pool of highly qualified students already exists at IUB (and surely elsewhere throughout the state), many of whom have already expressed eager interest in a possible Indiana University physician assistant program. Our pre-PA students tend to be extremely mature and devoted, as well as intellectually, academically, and interpersonally talented. It seems clear that IU Bloomington would be a major feeder campus for a physician assistant program housed within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Stated bluntly, until Indiana University offers a physician assistant program, we will continue to lose these excellent students to other schools.

There are only two PA programs in Indiana, both at private colleges, yet the number of pre-PA students continues to increase dramatically. The addition of a PA program to Indiana University's repertoire of graduate-level health science programs – a PA program affiliated with an excellent School of Medicine, no less – would result in more IU graduates staying within the IU system to earn their graduate degree, instead of having no choice but to leave for other schools, with Indiana residents often having to go out of state. Similarly, because there are

always many more qualified applicants to PA programs than can currently be offered seats, the formation of another program would offer benefits beyond the university, given that there would simply be more PAs providing healthcare. In fact, my conversations with pre-PA students indicates that a good many Hoosiers who earn a PA degree from IU would subsequently seek employment within Indiana, and thus become members of our own healthcare community. At the same time, the addition of a Physician Assistant Studies program correlates with Indiana's much-discussed Life Sciences Initiative.

Many thanks for providing me with the opportunity to express support for an Indiana University physician assistant program.

Sincerely,



Eric Beckstrom



## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Dean

November 4, 2009

Augustine O. Agho, Ph.D  
Dean and Professor  
Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis  
Coleman Hall 120  
1140 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5119

Dear Dr. Agho:

I have read the thoughtful consultant's report on commencing a Physician Assistants Program. There is no question as to the need for more so-called physician extenders. If the program can be done in a way that it does not take resources from other programs, I am enthusiastic in my support.

Sincerely,

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

DCB/lab



## INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY  
School of Medicine

November 5, 2009

Augustine O. Agho, Ph.D.  
Dean and Professor  
Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
IUPUI  
Coleman Hall 120  
1140 W. Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5119

Dear Dr. Agho: *Augustine,*

I write this letter in support of the proposal to initiate a Physician Assistant's master's level degree program here at IUPUI. I have had the privilege of working with physician assistants in the past and know how they are capable of being a wonderful and competent addition to our healthcare team.

As we think about global strategies for healthcare and realize that we can use some of these concepts locally, the addition of more physician assistants to our armamentarium in the healthcare field is exciting to say the least. As I have shared with you previously from the perspective of the School of Medicine, there is quite a lot of overlap and hopefully we can find ways to work closely together in our aligned mission. I say that cognizant of the fact that we just need to be diligent to make sure that the already ongoing educational venues for our medical and nursing students are not disrupted. I am confident, however, that with all the resources we have available to us in the state that we should be able to fulfill the mission of training these important providers for the future health of the residents of the state of Indiana.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey Rothenberg, M.D., M.S.  
Clinical Associate Professor  
President: Faculty of the Indiana University School of Medicine  
Vice Chairman for Faculty Development and Alumni Affairs  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Indiana University School of Medicine

JMR/ssi



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

November 12, 2009

Augustine O. Agho, PhD  
Dean and Professor  
Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Coleman Hall 120  
1140 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5119

Dear Dean Agho:

This is a letter of support for the proposed Physician Assistant program in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences. I believe that the case has been made for the need for such a program, both in respect to student demand and capacity for such a workforce, to help meet the demand for health care professionals to care for Indiana citizens in the future.

I am aware that there will be issues related to saturation of the clinical sites currently used by nurse practitioner students, as well as medical students and residents, but believe that Dean Agho is aware of this challenge and has developed a plan to address the challenges. As he developed this plan he has worked with an advisory group, one member of which is Dr. Melinda Swenson, full professor, who runs our Family Nurse Practitioner Program. I think there is some ability to expand the use of the Interdisciplinary Simulation facility in Fairbanks Hall and I would welcome the PA students, their faculty and the School of Rehabilitation Sciences as a partner. The cost of the program related to space, faculty, etc. seems somewhat formidable and hopefully these issues will be able to be addressed by the campus without cost to the existing health professions schools, such as nursing. In conversations with Dean Agho, he assured me this would not be the case.

In summary, then I am pleased to support the inception of this program and look forward to working with Dean Agho and his faculty on its implementation.

Sincerely,

Marion E. Broome, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Distinguished Professor  
Indiana University School of Nursing

Eileen M. McCaulay  
5118 Hummingbird Circle  
Carmel, IN 46033  
[emccaulay@earthlink.net](mailto:emccaulay@earthlink.net)

August 26, 2009

Augustine O. Agho, Ph.D  
Dean and Professor  
Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis  
Coleman Hall 120  
1140 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5119

Re: Physician Assistant Program

Dear Dr. Agho:

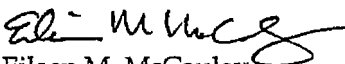
My daughter graduated with distinction from Indiana University in May 2009 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science/Kinesiology. Emily would like to continue her education by obtaining a Masters degree from a Physician Assistant program.

We were surprised to learn the state of Indiana only has one accredited program at the present time. Butler University selects approximately 30-35 students each year from among hundreds of well-qualified applicants. St. Francis University in Fort Wayne has a program that is currently on probation. In our research, we found Ohio offers 6 programs, Michigan has 5, Illinois has 4.....you can see where I am headed. It would be wonderful to learn IUPUI will be establishing a Physician Assistant Masters program in the near future. Now that I have reviewed my daughter's research, I agree with her assessment that Physician Assistants appear to be a strong growth field in the future of health care. As we continue to face nursing shortages and reduced medical care in under-served areas, this would be an excellent time to consider adding this type of educational opportunity for our Indiana students.

I think it is time to ask questions about the future of health care education in Indiana and in my opinion, training Physician Assistants would enhance patient care access and expand our doctor's capabilities.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Eileen M. McCaulay





## **INDIANA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS PROGRAM**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

School of Medicine

Augustine O. Agho, Ph.D  
Dean and Professor  
Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis  
Coleman Hall 120  
1140 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5119

Re: Proposed IU Physician Assistant Program

Dear Dr. Agho,

It is a pleasure to write a letter of support as you seek approval to establish a master's level physician assistant program (PA) within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Indiana University. As Executive Director of the Indiana Area Health Education Centers Program (IN-AHEC), I am acutely aware of the problems linked to insufficient numbers of healthcare providers, particularly in underserved rural and urban communities. With the interest in Primary Care Medicine at an all time low and with 39 of 92 Indiana counties (42%) officially designated Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA), the need to expand the healthcare workforce utilizing mid-level providers is quite apparent. Additionally, with current Healthcare Reform initiatives evolving, more and more patients will have insurance coverage; thus it is imperative that we develop a workforce that is willing and able to serve all the people no matter where they live in Indiana.

Having served on the task force to develop this Physicians Assistant Program, I know the two current PA programs in Indiana cannot keep-up with the anticipated demand. Employment opportunities for physician assistants is expected to grow 27 percent from 2006 to 2016, particularly as health care organizations increasingly use PA's to meet the health workforce needs of rural and urban clinics and to contain costs. It is clear the development of this new program is not only timely, but essential. The location of this PA program at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) is ideal and well aligned with the research mission of the campus and IUPUI's goal to attract high quality faculty and graduate students.

Analysis of the academic and clinical resources at Indiana University has demonstrated an ability to develop a top-notch PA educational offering. IUPUI is the home of the School of Medicine, IU School of Nursing, IU School of Science, IU School of Social Work, IN-AHEC, Clarian Health System and is closely aligned with Community Health Network, Purdue School of Pharmacy and St. Vincent Health System. The close proximity of these clinical resources also allows for immersion experiences in InterProfessional education; now touted as the future healthcare training model for this country. Students enrolled in this proposed program will also benefit by having access to library holdings in the School of Medicine and the Ruth Lilly Medical Library; the latter being the only academic health sciences library in the state.

Certainly, as with any new program, barriers to development and implementation of this PA program will arise. The members of the task force have anticipated these problems and believe that each is surmountable. IUPUI has a history of tackling new academic programs with both vigor and quality; I see no reason this new Physician Assistant Program will not follow in the same foot-steps of other highly successful health professions training programs. I give my complete endorsement to proceed with development of the new IU program Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Kivsky MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "MD" at the end being more distinct.

Richard D. Kivsky, M.D., FAAFP  
Professor of Clinical Family Medicine  
Executive Director, Indiana AHEC Program  
Indiana University School of Medicine

**IUPUI**  
**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE**  

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**A PURDUE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL**  
Indianapolis

November 18, 2009

Dean Augustine O. Agho  
IU School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences  
Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis  
120 Coleman Hall  
1140 W. Michigan St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46038

Dear Dean Agho:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the IU School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences' proposal to develop a professional graduate degree program in Physician Assistant Studies.

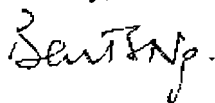
I have read the proposal and I have met with the external consultant, Dr. Dana Sayre-Stanhope, Chair of the PA program at Emory University, during her visit to IUPUI earlier this year. I concur with Dr. Sayre-Stanhope's assessment that there is a critical need for more qualified physician assistants in the state of Indiana. Given the current nationwide effort to reform and control the cost of healthcare, I further believe that demand for the kind of service that physician assistants have to offer will only increase in the future.

As you know, the School of Science provides undergraduate and graduate programs in the basic sciences that are central to the health and life sciences mission of IUPUI. A significant number of our graduates enter professional degrees programs here on campus, including medicine, dentistry, optometry and law. Our school is therefore well equipped to provide you with any necessary programmatic support and we very much look forward to partnering with you to ensure that the proposed program will be a success.

I am indeed delighted that the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences decided to move forward aggressively with the establishment of the Physician Assistant Program as it will surely further strengthen the health and life sciences mission of our campus.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information or if I can be of assistance in any other way.

Sincerely,



Bart S. Ng  
Acting Dean, School of Science  
M. L. Bittinger Chair of Mathematical Sciences

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Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis



# St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital

Academic Affairs & Research  
8402 Harcourt Road  
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Indianapolis, IN 46260  
(317) 338-2455  
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stvincent.org

November 30, 2009

Augustine O. Agho, Ph.D.  
Dean and Professor  
IU School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Indiana University Purdue University -Indianapolis  
120 Coleman Hall  
1140 W. Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46038

Dear Dean Agho:

This letter is written in support of the proposal for the professional graduate degree Physician Assistant Studies. I have read the proposal and the consultant's report. I concur with the analysis of the consultant that there is a critical need for more qualified physician assistants in Indiana and beyond.

St Vincent Health is a mission-based, values driven healthcare system in Indiana and the flagship system for Ascension Health. With 19 hospitals across Indiana and over 90 employed primary care physician offices in 15 different practices networks across Central Indiana, we are keenly interested in the academic preparation of physician assistants. Our Indianapolis Campus, just 15 minutes from your campus, houses an acute Tertiary / Quaternary Hospital, Women's Hospital, Children's Hospital, psychiatric hospital, long-term acute care hospital, adult and pediatric emergency departments, numerous primary care and subspecialty offices, and ancillary facilities.

St. Vincent is committed to advancing a partnership with this program as we see it filling a vital need for our community. Our hospitals are well versed in professional medical education, training more than 150 medical residents and fellows, and providing rotations for hundreds of medical and nursing students annually from Indiana University and other regional academic centers. We welcome the opportunity to serve as a clinical training site for this new program.

I am delighted to support the establishment of a Physician Assistant Program at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis and look forward to partnering with you to implement the clinical component of your curriculum. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Lubitz, MD, MPH, FACP  
Vice President, Academic Affairs and Research

A member of



Core Values

We are called to:

**Service of the Poor**

Generosity of spirit for  
persons most in need.

**Reverence**

Respect and compassion  
for the dignity and diversity  
of life.

**Integrity**

Inspiring trust through  
personal leadership.

**Wisdom**

Integrating excellence  
and stewardship.

**Creativity**

Courageous innovation.

**Dedication**

Affirming the hope and  
joy of our ministry.

A member of St. Vincent HEALTH



Austin Agho, PhD  
Dean, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences  
Indiana University  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Dr. Agho,

I am writing in support for the proposed master's degree program for a physician assistant program. I feel that this is very appropriate as it will help provide additional mid level practitioners to the State of Indiana. This is especially important with the current shortage of primary care physicians that Indiana is experiencing. Clarian has had a long standing history of participating in the education of physician assistants and would welcome the opportunity to be involved with an Indiana University program.

If there is anything I can do to further assist with the process for the new program with Indiana University please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark H. Mattes", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark H. Mattes, J.D.  
Director of Academic Affairs