

## IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Date Reviewed: 15 Oct 2013

Documents Reviewed: Memorandum, Program Description, Proposal for Joint Degree in Medicine and Public Health, Appendix 1

### Summary of Proposal:

The Indiana University School of Medicine and Indiana University Fairbanks School of Public Health propose a five year joint MD-MPH program. The program will be administered by IUPUI and offer it to students on all nine School of Medicine campuses. Students will need to apply and be accepted to each program separately. MD students complete the curriculum needed for the MPH during the summer between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years of medical school and the 4<sup>th</sup> year of medical school. The medical school curriculum is then extended to a 5<sup>th</sup> and final year. Students complete 45 credits for the degree; 9-12 of these MPH credits are offered for classes already taken as part of the MD degree. A 1.4M Health Resources and Services grant recently received by Medicine and Public Health will be used to develop online public health content as well as provide stipends to interested MD-MPH students. The program is estimated to serve 5 new students in 2014 and increase to 8 in 2017. Appropriate and extensive justifications for program development in Indiana are outlined.

### 1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

- a. Public health already offers joint degrees with a number of other professional schools and that sets precedence for success.
- b. The proposal states that 4 new courses are under development that will be integral for the success for the MD-MPH program. The proposal states that these courses will be available when the 1<sup>st</sup> group of MD-MPH program students is in their 4<sup>th</sup> year. No details are given as to how these courses are being developed. **Over the next two years, the Fairbanks School of Public Health faculty will develop four new clinically-relevant MPH courses so that they are ready to be offered to MD students in the 2015-16 academic year. There are several public health physicians on faculty in the Fairbanks School of Public Health who will be involved in the development and delivery of these courses. Proposals for these new courses will go through the proper channels of approval before they are offered.**
- c. The proposal also states that online courses will be developed and that students at all nine School of Medicine campuses will be able enroll in the program. The availability of significant online courses (no details are given) or a requirement that students enroll in courses taught in Indianapolis would be required to achieve this goal. No details are given about how the online courses will be developed or how students at different campuses will take the courses. **The Fairbanks School of Public Health faculty are spending Years 1 & 2 of the grant converting some of the existing public health courses to an online format and adding clinically-relevant cases for medical students. Lorie Shuck, instructional designer with a joint appointment in the IUPUI Center for Teaching and Learning and IU School of Medicine, is included in the grant budget and is working with the faculty to assist with the design of the online courses. Students will register for public health courses through IUPUI, regardless of the medical campus on which they reside. The online courses will be delivered by the Fairbanks School of Public Health at IUPUI using the Oncourse platform. All medical students enrolled in the MPH Program will have access to an Oncourse account, even if they are situated on a campus that utilizes Blackboard as the primary platform (i.e. Muncie).**

### 2. Is the program academically sound?

The joint MD-MPH program is academically sound and is comparable to other MD-MPH programs at other universities. The MD-MPH program at the University of Iowa requires 42 credits. The MPH program at Johns Hopkins can be completed in 11 months by MD students. The University of Illinois at Chicago has similar credit requirements as the proposed program. Most comparable programs have a similar timeline for completion of the MPH curriculum. Many of the other comparable programs listed in the proposal have options for certain areas of expertise within their programs. The proposed MD-MPH program, however, may be lacking depth as only a few courses may be chosen as elective options. **The MD-MPH students will be assigned a public health faculty advisor who will work with them to determine the proper course selection and sequence. Due to the nature of the streamlined MD-MPH curriculum, the amount of time available for elective credits is limited, however, if a medical student wants to enroll in an MPH elective course, there are over 25 from which to choose. Most medical students are in Indianapolis for their final years of medical school so the MD-MPH students will have access to public health electives offered online and in class.**

**3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?**

As the proposal is written it is unclear how the new program will be administered and new courses will be developed. The program is jointly administered by the IU School of Medicine and Fairbanks School of Public Health. The four individuals responsible for the oversight of the MD-MPH Program are (1) Maryellen Gusic, MD, IU School of Medicine Executive Associate Dean for Education, (2) Rohit Das, MD, MPH, IU School of Medicine Faculty Member, (3) Carole Kacius, PhD, Fairbanks School of Public Health Associate Dean for Education and Training, and (4) Greg Wilson, MD, Fairbanks School of Public Health Associate Dean for Global and Community Affairs. Over the past 14 months, these four individuals have been meeting once a month to plan and develop the MD-MPH Program. It is anticipated that they will continue to meet monthly to monitor and evaluate the program at least through 2017-2018 when the first cohort of MD-MPH students graduate. It is unknown which of the current faculty will develop and teach the 4 newly proposed courses. The Fairbanks School of Public Health Dean and Department Chairs will determine which of the 35 public health faculty will be responsible for teaching the new courses to be offered in 2015-16. Additionally, the projected growth of the new School of Public Health includes several new faculty hires this year and next. Dr. Paul Halverson, Founding Dean, is committed to the advancement of the MD-MPH Program. It is also unclear how the \$1.4M grant will be utilized to develop the online courses and how this will impact current faculty. Over the five year period of the HRSA grant, the funds are used to support faculty time to develop online MPH courses with clinically-relevant content, an instructional designer (Lorie Shuck) with expertise in online course development and delivery, stipends for medical students who pursue the MPH, survey instruments and evaluation of the impact of public health education for medical students, and supplies to support online learning. Regarding the impact on current faculty, those who advise MD-MPH students and teach courses as part of the MD-MPH Program will do so as part of a normal faculty load (teaching, research, service) in the Fairbanks School of Public Health. The proposal states that no new University costs will be associated with the new program.

**4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?**

No overlap is known.

**5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...**

Recommend to approve with minor changes.

Would like more information on: online course development, who will develop the new courses, and how the \$1.4M grant will be used to develop the program. As stated above, the grant funds are used to support faculty who develop online public health learning modules for all medical students, online MPH courses with clinically-relevant content, an instructional designer with online learning expertise, stipends for medical students who want to pursue their MPH degree, survey instruments to evaluate the impact of the public health education, and supplies (webcams, headphones) to support online learning on the various medical campuses. Additionally, the development of additional courses as the program progresses would be beneficial. The School of Public Health continues to develop new courses each year.