

PLEASE USE COMPANY LETTERHEAD

June 7, 2011

Center for Scientific Review
National Institutes of Health
6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 1040, MSC 7710
Bethesda, MD 20892-7710

RE: Letter of Support for U-HEALTH Grant Application

Dear NIH Review Committee:

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is pleased to present this letter of support for the U-HEALTH Partnership proposal being submitted by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to the National Institutes of Minority Health and Health Disparities on behalf of Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A•P•L•U) and the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU).

ADEA has partnered with the AAMC on a number of ambitious initiatives to address health care inequality, healthcare workforce professional development, and improving access and diversity within the health professions, with an emphasis on dental education. These partnerships include the longstanding and successful Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP), our ongoing collaboration with the AAMC's MedEdPORTAL, a free peer-reviewed publication service and repository for medical and oral health education, which we partially fund and house a collection with and, more recently, as one of six associations (including the AAMC) that comprise the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) – a first-of-its-kind collaboration with a goal of improving the quality and delivery of healthcare through interdisciplinary education.

The U-HEALTH Partnership proposal aligns with our mission to *“lead individuals and institutions of the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research, and the delivery of oral health care for the health of the public.”* The proposal also fits with the work of our members who:

- determine best practices for dental education and encourage changes in dental education programs and institutions that will benefit everyone; and,
- come together to advocate effectively for public policy issues essential to dental educators and researchers, especially access to dental care, a necessary element to improved oral health

We enthusiastically support funding for the U-HEALTH Partnership. We believe this work to be important and necessary to further advance efforts to reduce disparities in public health. As an existing partner with the AAMC, and as the voice of oral health education, ADEA is poised to offer assistance to the partnership to help ensure its success. The partnership of A•P•L•U /USU and the AAMC promises to be beneficial to our work as well as the larger community of medical and allied health professionals.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Valachovic
Executive Director
American Dental Education Association

June 7, 2011

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National Institutes of Health
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Bethesda, MD 20892-7710

RE: Letter of Support for U-HEALTH Grant Application

Dear NIH Review Committee:

Please accept this letter of support from the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) for the U-HEALTH Partnership grant proposal to the National Institutes of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

U-HEALTH brings together skilled leadership in data collection and higher education expertise with the partnership of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A·P·L·U) and the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU).

The PAEA is supportive of this proposal because of the learning collaborative that it will create within health care education. As part of our mission to “foster faculty development” and “promote diversity in all aspects of physician assistant education,” we identify with key goals of the U-HEALTH proposal. Such as, designing a university-based learning and data collaborative, and developing benchmarks on core measures related to talent development supportive of health equity. These particular goals complement PAEA’s vision of promoting excellence in physician education to improve the quality of health care for all.

We have worked with the AAMC’s Center for Workforce Studies initiative in helping to report on physician shortages in the U.S., and would be very receptive to being part of the larger learning collaborative the U-HEALTH proposal describes. Without proper, adequate, and timely data collection, working to solve the issues around health care disparities and the delivery of care can be difficult and daunting. The U-HEALTH learning collaborative presents a working model to help address this dilemma for health care professionals.

In closing, funding the U-HEALTH Partnership proposal will aid in the progress towards identifying best practices that help reduce health care disparities and increase interprofession collaboration within health care education. We are excited about the possibilities of this proposal and feel positive about its objectives.

Sincerely,

Timi Agar Barwick
Executive Director
Physician Assistant Education Association