

Duke University

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

September 30, 2016

Nancy C. Andrews, MD, PhD
Dean and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Duke University School of Medicine

Re: Creation of a Department of Population Health Sciences

Dear Nancy,

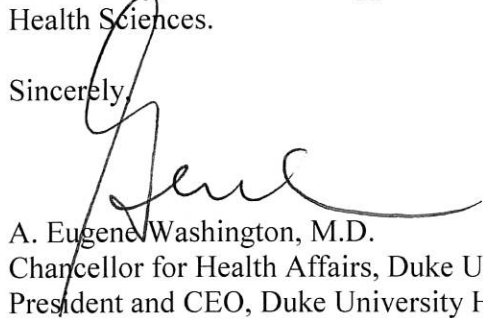
As Chancellor for Health Affairs, Duke University, and President and CEO of the Duke University Health System, I express my strong support for the creation of a Department of Population Health Sciences at the Duke University School of Medicine.

When I arrived as Chancellor in 2015, I was thrilled to hear you had charged an internal working group to examine how Duke could develop an academic resource to address the challenge of improving population health through innovative research and education; that strategy aligned perfectly with population health emerging as a priority for Duke Health. I have been very pleased with the work of the Center for Population Health Sciences that you created to advance the ideas presented by the working group, and agree with the next step of creating a basic science department for faculty whose research focuses on examining the underlying causes of health, using data on environmental, social, behavioral, physical, and genetic determinants of health to improve health, and informing policies that shape access to, financing and delivery of high quality health care.

In February 2016, we published an article in JAMA, Viewpoint highlighting the need for academic health systems to reconfigure and invest in population health management and health improvement activities, including training and supporting research on methodological development, implementation science, and other health services research to study how to best improve population health outcomes.¹ The formation of the proposed department of population health sciences will provide Duke an opportunity to lead the shift that must take place in academic health systems to foster research and education in population health, ultimately helping us to deliver on the promise of population health improvement.

In summary, I am in full support of this proposal for a new basic science Department of Population Health Sciences.

Sincerely,



A. Eugene Washington, M.D.
Chancellor for Health Affairs, Duke University
President and CEO, Duke University Health System

1. Washington, A., M.J. Coye, and L. Boulware, *Academic health systems' third curve: Population health improvement*. JAMA, 2016. 315(5): p. 459-460.



L. Ebony Boulware, MD, MPH, FACP
Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine
Vice Dean for Translational Science

October 3, 2016

Lesley Curtis, PhD
Professor, Department of Medicine & Director, Center for Population Health Sciences
Duke University School of Medicine
2400 Pratt Street
Durham, NC 27707

RE: Creation of a Department of Population Health Sciences

Dear Lesley,

I am delighted to express my utmost support for the creation of a Department of Population Health Sciences at the Duke University School of Medicine. In my roles as Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Vice Dean for Clinical and Translational Science, I am acutely aware of the need for this Department at Duke and the multiple benefits it will bring to Duke faculty and learners.

A basic science department for non-clinical faculty whose research focuses on examining the underlying causes of health, using data regarding environmental, social, behavioral, physical, and genetic determinants of health to improve health, and informing policies that shape access to, financing and delivery of high quality health care will create an academic home for this work at Duke that mirrors and can exceed success at our peer institutions nationally and internationally. Given that many of our clinical faculty are interested in collaborating with population health science investigators, having an academic home for non-clinical faculty who conduct this type of research (and secondary appointment for clinical faculty) is a perfect opportunity for Duke's expansion in this space. As Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, I have already started working with the Center for Population Health Science to foster collaborations with our clinical faculty, and start the transition of key population health science non-clinical faculty to the future department.

I believe this Department will go a long way to develop Duke's capacity to foster translational research and education, evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of interventions translated and tested in general clinical settings and population health. I therefore fully support the development of a new Department of Population Health Sciences and look forward to many collaborations as the vision for a Department comes to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' and 'B' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

L. Ebony Boulware, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine
Director, Clinical and Translational Science Institute
Vice Dean for Translational Sciences
Associate Vice Chancellor for Translational Research

September 30, 2016

RE: Creation of a Department of Population Health Sciences

Dear Colleagues:

As Dean of the Duke University School of Medicine, I want to express my full support for the creation of a new Department of Population Health Sciences within the Duke University School of Medicine.

In 2015 I asked Dr. Lesley Curtis to lead an internal working group to gather perspectives from key leaders and stakeholders around the University and to discuss key elements of a possible Department of Population Health Sciences, including its research portfolio, potential educational offerings, and faculty composition. The report prepared by that working group in March 2016 outlined a compelling need to create a non-clinical department for faculty members whose research uses data regarding environmental, social, behavioral, physical, and genetic determinants of health to inform policies that shape access to, financing of and delivery of high quality health care. While this proposed department is, by design, a “basic science” department, secondary appointments for clinical faculty members will be important, and will ensure strong collaborations with clinical departments.

Based on the findings of this report, we created a Center for Population Health Sciences (CPHS), provisionally intended to be the foundation for subsequent establishment of a new department in the School of Medicine. Over the last six months, Dr. Curtis has served as director of the CPHS, and worked with a collaborative team to prepare a thoughtful and thorough proposal for evolution to a department that will enhance our presence and national standing in the area of population health research.

In summary, Duke University School of Medicine leadership is in full support of this proposal for a new non-clinical Department of Public Health Sciences that will serve as the academic home for School of Medicine faculty members with doctoral training in public health, health services research, policy, epidemiology, implementation science, behavioral health sciences, and other related disciplines. I support this proposal with utmost enthusiasm.

Sincerely,



Nancy C. Andrews, M.D., Ph.D.

Dean of the School of Medicine and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

September 29, 2016

Lesley Curtis, PhD
Professor, Department of Medicine & Director, Center for Population Health Sciences
Duke University School of Medicine
2400 Pratt Street
Durham, NC 27707

RE: Creation of a Department of Population Health Sciences

Dear Lesley,

As Director of the Duke Global Health Institute (DGHI), I express my strong support for the creation of a Department of Population Health Sciences at the Duke University School of Medicine.

As you know, I met with the Dean's internal population health sciences working group that concluded there was a need to create a basic science department for non-clinical faculty whose research focuses on the underlying causes and determinants of health and informing policies that shape access to, financing and delivery of high quality health care.

The need for this department is evidenced at DGHI, where many of our faculty conduct population health sciences research. Having this department serve as the academic home for many of these faculty would provide the support they need to grow their careers as well as increase the impact of the important research and service work they lead as a part of DGHI. Additionally, the educational programs to be offered by the new department, particularly a doctoral program, will provide a unique opportunity for our master's students to continue their careers in global population health sciences. DGHI looks forward to working with you on curriculum development of both your master's and doctoral programs.

In summary, I am in full support of this proposal for a new Department of Population Health Sciences.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Merson, MD
Director, Duke Global Health Institute
Wolfgang Joklik Professor of Global Health

September 27, 2016

Lesley Curtis, PhD

Professor, Department of Medicine & Director, Center for Population Health Sciences
Duke University School of Medicine
2400 Pratt Street
Durham, NC 27707

RE: Creation of a Department of Population Health Sciences

Dear Lesley,

As Director of the Duke Center for Health Policy and Robert J. Margolis, M.D., Professor of Business, Medicine and Health Policy, I express my strong support for the creation of a Department of Population Health Sciences at the Duke University School of Medicine.

When I arrived in 2015, I was thrilled to hear that the School of Medicine had recognized the need to create a basic science department for non-clinical faculty whose research focuses on examining the underlying causes of health, using data regarding environmental, social, behavioral, physical, and genetic determinants of health to improve health, and informing policies that shape access to, financing and delivery of high quality health care. Given that the Health Policy Center's focus is on improving health and the value of health care by developing and implementing evidence-based policy solutions locally, nationally, and globally, having an academic home to grow faculty who conduct research in population health science was a perfect opportunity for collaboration.

Over the last 18 months, we have worked to build collaborations with the existing Center for Population Health Sciences, including enlisting Dr. Curtis as an expert for the Center, and entering into a memorandum of understanding for the purchase, governance, and use of longitudinal Medicare claims data for policy-relevant research. I look forward to continued collaborations with the newly established Department faculty, including service, education and research that will inform health policy solutions.

In summary, I am in full support of this proposal for a new basic science Department of Population Health Sciences.

Sincerely,



Mark McClellan MD, PhD

Director, Duke-Robert J. Margolis, MD, Center for Health Policy

Duke University