



CEPH

COUNCIL on EDUCATION for PUBLIC HEALTH

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July 8, 2009

José F. Cordero, MD, MPH
Dean
University of Puerto Rico
Graduate School of Public Health
Medical Sciences Campus
PO Box 365067
San Juan, PR 00936

Dear Dr. Cordero:

Thank you for submitting your interim reports to the Council on Education for Public Health. The CEPH Board of Councilors reviewed the reports at its June 17-20, 2009 meeting and determined that the school has demonstrated compliance with Criteria V.A (Degrees Offered), V.D (Student Assessment), VI (Research) and X.A (Evaluation and Planning) of the *Accreditation Criteria for Graduate Schools of Public Health, amended January 2002* (issues outstanding from the school's 2007 accreditation review) and Criterion 2.10 of the *Accreditation Criteria for Schools of Public Health, amended June 2005*.

In reaching its determination, the Council noted the establishment of an MPH in environmental health sciences; the definition of a curriculum and competency set for the generalist MPH; the thorough analysis of retention rates and development of plans to improve graduation rates; the establishment of a wide-ranging complement of strategies tailored to improving the school's research productivity; and the implementation of a successful strategic planning process.

The Council also noted that the school has taken all available steps to establish two new public health doctoral degrees to supplement the existing DrPH in environmental health. The school has developed proposals, including curricula, for DrPH degrees in health systems analysis and social determinants of health. The school presented information on the steps involved in the approval process beyond the school and on the time required to implement those steps. The school provided evidence that it has proceeded in a timely fashion through all of the elements that are within the school's control and that the school has worked with external constituents to expedite their role in the approval process. The school expects the health services administration degree to receive approval in 2010 and enroll its first students in fall 2010. The school expects the social determinants of health degree to receive approval in 2011 and enroll its first students in fall 2011. The Council accepts these actions as evidence of compliance with Criterion 2.10 (Doctoral Degrees) at this time.

José F. Cordero, MD, MPH

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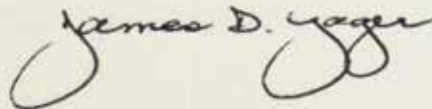
However, the Council is requesting a new interim report. This interim report, due in spring 2010, must document that the school has continued to progress to full implementation of the DrPH degrees in health systems analysis and social determinants of health. Documentation must include evidence of progress in the approval process for the social determinants of health degree. Documentation must also include evidence of the approval of the health systems analysis degree; print- and web-based recruitment and application materials for the DrPH degree in health systems analysis; data relating to the number of applications and accepted students, as applicable; and print- and web-based information on the health systems analysis curriculum, including courses that will be offered for this degree program in the fall semester 2010. (Criterion 2.10)

The school can expect continued annual reporting until such time as the two proposed doctoral programs have each had graduates.

Interim reports provide a way for you to demonstrate that the school has come into compliance with all accreditation criteria. Failure to document compliance so must trigger adverse action on CEPH's part. For further information, please refer to our technical assistance document on interim reports and their consequences, which is available at www.ceph.org.

The interim report will be due on May 6, 2010, and CEPH staff will send you a reminder several months before it is due. In order to maintain accredited status, the school must document compliance in the spring 2010 interim report, and the next accreditation review must take place before July 1, 2014. We look forward to reviewing your school in greater depth during these upcoming reviews.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James D. Yager". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "Y".

James D. Yager, PhD
President

cc: CEPH Councilors