

December 11, 2003

David Watt Associate Provost for Academic Affairs College of Medicine MN150 **Chandler Medical Center** Lexington, KY 40536

Dear Dr. Watt:

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We are pleased to learn that the University is considering the creation of a College of Public Health. We recently met with Dr. Todd Cheever, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, to discuss the prospects for this new college.

A number of medical students, including some of us who are signing this letter, have an interest in obtaining a joint degree. At a time when our country and Kentucky in particular face some daunting public health issues, it will be important for the College of Medicine and the College of Public Health to train individuals who can take public leadership roles on these issues. An accredited College of Public Health would be of potential value to us in obtaining access to certain fellowships that we would otherwise be denied.

We also understand that the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health will transfer from the College of Medicine to the College of Public Health. Although this issue is one for faculty and administrators to decide, we are comfortable with the understanding that this Department will continue to provide education to medical students regardless of its location.

Sincerely.

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Center for Excellence in Medical Education