

April 14, 2018

Katherine McCormick, Chair
University of Kentucky Senate Council

Dear Dr. McCormick:

The Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) recommends approval of the proposal by Nancy Schoenberg, Ph.D., of the College of Medicine to create a Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET), as a multi-disciplinary research center. She would serve as founding director, as a 25 percent effort level.

Dr. Schoenberg is Marion Pearsall Professor in the college's Department of Behavioral Science, and also has appointments in the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Communication and Information, and Public Health; in the latter college, she served as associate dean for research in 2014-17. She has been funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2000 and is leading three R01 projects in Appalachian Kentucky. She describes CHET's mission as "coordinating trans-disciplinary, translational research and training efforts across diseases, behaviors and UK units to address health inequities." She cites the need to address health inequities in Kentucky and beyond, "the widespread, but diffuse, expertise and interest in health equity at UK; the importance of increasing our competitive advantage in research and training" (noting that all other UK benchmarks and aspirational universities have centers for health equity), and the university's land-grant mission. CHET would "foster and catalyze research across the translational spectrum, from improving understanding of the risk factors that contribute to health inequalities to implementing, disseminating, and evaluating interventions, programs and policies that remedy such inequalities." Her proposal specifies initial targets for extramural research funding.

CHET would be housed in Research Building 2, and would receive pilot grants would from the vice president for research, who has delegated administrative responsibility for CHET to the College of Medicine. The college would provide \$65,000 in FY18, rising \$5,000 per year to \$85,000 in FY22. Additional support would come from the College of Arts and Sciences (pilot grants) and the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (partnering with the College of Nursing to expand a program to enhance research training among underrepresented minority groups and others who are interested in underserved populations). The college and the Markey Cancer Center would each support recruitment of two Regular Title faculty for CHET, with at least three more if it shows evidence of progress. The dean of the college says CHET would integrate research by investigators in the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business and Economics, Communication and Information, Health Sciences, Public Health, and Medicine. The proposal lists founding affiliates in most of those colleges, plus Agriculture, Food and Environment, Communication and Information, and Nursing; and says they would likely become core CHET faculty as they attract more health-equity funding.

The director of CHET would be appointed for a six-year term by the dean of the College of Medicine, with confirmation by the provost, president and Board of Trustees, and would be eligible for reappointment. The dean would conduct annual performance reviews, based on grant applications, pilot grant competitions, hiring, training programs, and its proposed speaker series. The director would evaluate performance of CHET faculty activities that exceed 20% of the faculty member's DOE; in cases where a faculty member performs assigned DOE duties in CHET that total 20% or less of the member's DOE, the member's primary unit administrator will evaluate the activity performed in CHET with input from the director of CHET.

CHET would have three associate directors, one of whom the proposal identifies (a sociology professor), and a staff administrator. The director and associate directors would sit on a nine-member Executive Council; the remaining members would be three core faculty and two affiliates, serving three-year, rotating terms. The council would solicit nominees for members and affiliates; facilitate faculty and postdoctoral fellow recruitment, hiring, and mentorship; provide oversight; and advise the director on new initiatives and resolution of problems. The council would implement changes recommended by an External Advisory Board. The board would comprise five senior faculty who direct successful research units at UK and other institutions. It would meet annually for on-campus site visits of CHET and issue a written report on its status, including perceived strengths and weaknesses, suggestions for improvement, and comments on responsiveness of CHET leadership to prior concerns. The director would use the reports to improve CHET.

Through this report, the SAOSC moves to approve the proposal on its academic merits, and makes a second motion to endorse it on its organizational and structural merit, as a multidisciplinary research center. There were no dissenting votes in the committee, which deliberated via email.

Al Cross, chair, Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee

Director, Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues

Associate extension professor, School of Journalism and Media

COVER PAGE FOR CHANGES TO ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION OR STRUCTURE OF AN EDUCATIONAL UNIT

The Senate’s Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) is tasked by the University Senate with the review of proposals to change academic organization or structure. The information needed by the SAOSC for the review of such proposals is set forth in *Senate Rules 3.4.2.A.5*¹.

The SAOSC has developed a set of guidelines (from the *Senate Rules*) that are intended to ease the task of proposal submission (available at <http://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/forms>). As proposal omissions usually cause a delay in the review process, the individual(s) responsible for the proposal is (are) urged to familiarize themselves with these guidelines before submitting their proposals for review. In particular, the individual responsible for the proposal must fill out Sections I, II and III of this form, as well as include statements and documentation that provide a full accounting of the items a - i, below.

- a. Disposition of faculty, staff and resources (financial and physical);
- b. Willingness of the donating units to release faculty lines for transfer to a different educational unit;
- c. Consultation with the faculty of the unit to which the faculty lines are proposed to be transferred;
- d. Consultation with the faculty of educational unit that will be significantly reduced;
- e. Summary of votes and viewpoints (including dissents) of unit faculty and department/college committees;
- f. Ballots, votes expressing support for or against the proposal by unit faculty and staff and committees;
- g. Letters of support or opposition from appropriate faculty and/or administrators; and
- h. Letters of support from outside the University.

Section I – General Information about Proposal

One- to two-sentence description of change:	To establish a new Multidisciplinary Research Center, the UK Center for Health Equity Transformation.				
Contact person name:	Nancy Schoenberg	Phone:	859-323-8175	Email:	nesch@uky.edu
Administrative position (dean, chair, director, etc.):	proposed Director				

Section II – Educational Unit(s) Potentially Impacted by Proposal

Check all that apply and name the specific unit(s).		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	School of:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	College of:	Medicine
<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Center for:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interdisciplinary Instructional Program:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multidisciplinary Research Center/Institute:	

Section III – Type of Proposal

Check all that apply.

¹ Items a-i are derived from *Senate Rules 3.4.2.A.5*. The Senate Rules in their entirety are available at http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/rules_regulations/index.htm.)

COVER PAGE FOR CHANGES TO ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION OR STRUCTURE OF AN EDUCATIONAL UNIT

<i>A. Changes</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change to the name of an educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change to the type of educational unit (e.g., from department to school).
<i>B. Other types of proposals</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Creation of a new educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consolidation of multiple educational units.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transfer of an academic program to a different educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transfer of an educational unit to a different reporting unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant reduction of an educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discontinuation, suspension or closure of an educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Give a one- or two-sentence description below; a complete description will be in the proposal).

Section IV is for internal use/guidance.

Section IV – Guidance for SAOSC, Senate Council and University Senate

SAOSC Review of Type A Proposals (Changes to Type of, or to Name of, an Educational Unit)

- ✓ SAOSC review of proposal.
- ✓ SAOSC recommendation for an additional or joint review by other Senate committee(s) (e.g. Senate's Academic Programs Committee).

SAOSC Review of Type B Proposals (All Other Changes)

- ✓ SAOSC review of proposal.
- ✓ SAOSC recommendation for an additional or joint review by other Senate committee(s) (e.g. Senate's Academic Programs Committee).
- ✓ SAOSC review of proposals for creation, consolidation, transfer, closure, discontinuation, or significant reduction and educational unit, or transfer of an academic program to a different educational unit (attach documentation).
- ✓ Program review in past three years (attach documentation).
- ✓ Request to Provost for new program review (attach documentation).
- ✓ Open hearing (attach documentation).
 - SAOSC information must be shared with unit 10 days prior to hearing.
 - Open hearing procedures disseminated.

Voting by SAOSC, Senate Council and University Senate

- ✓ Endorse (or do not endorse) the academic organization, reporting, infrastructure, etc.
 - This vote is taken by the SAOSC, SC and Senate for every SAOSC proposal.
- ✓ Approve (or do not approve) the academic status or content of academic program.
 - This vote is taken by the SAOSC, SC and Senate only when the review involves an MDRC.

Nancy E. Schoenberg, Ph.D.
Marion Pearsall Professor

University of Kentucky
Department of Behavioral Science
125 Medical Behavioral Science
Building Lexington, KY 40536-0086
Phone: 859-323-8175
Fax: 859-323-5350



March 13, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to provide information regarding the development of a new Multidisciplinary Research Center, the UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET), an institution-wide Center reporting to the Dean of the College of Medicine and the Vice President for Research. As the proposed founding Director, I envision CHET's mission as coordinating transdisciplinary, translational research and training efforts across diseases, behaviors, and UK's units to address health inequities. Our focus will be to foster the most innovative, impactful, and productive research to improve health equity and to train the next generation of stellar health equity scholars.

We began the development of CHET nearly two years ago, predicated on: (1) the dire need to address health inequities in the Commonwealth and beyond; (2) the widespread, but diffuse, expertise and interest in health equity at UK; (3) the importance of increasing our competitive advantage in research and training; and (4) the opportunity to fulfill the mandate of our land grant institution and higher education overall by enhancing community outreach and inclusivity. Specifically:

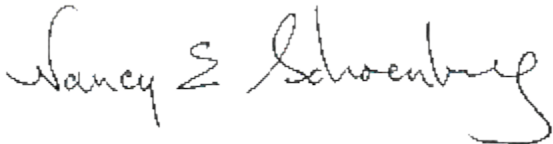
- (1) Kentuckians suffer among the highest national rates of morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular disease, cancer, substance abuse, diabetes, and obesity. The burden of these diseases falls disproportionately on rural, racial/ethnic and sexual minorities, and lower socioeconomic status groups. CHET will foster and catalyze research on across the translational spectrum, from improving understanding of the risk factors that contribute to health inequalities to implementing, disseminating, and evaluating programs and policies that remedy such inequities
- (2) From bench scientists examining mechanisms underlying variations in population health to Cooperative Extension Service faculty developing cooking classes to promote healthy eating to social scientists drawing on critical theory to influence public policy, few substantive areas underlie UK's research portfolio. CHET proposed affiliates members are located in all 16 colleges across campus; in Barnstable Brown Diabetes & Obesity Center, Center for Appalachian Studies, Center on Drug & Alcohol Research, Center for Excellence in Rural Health, Center for Health Services Research, Center for Poverty Research, Gill Heart Institute, Markey Cancer Center, Tracy Farmer Center, etc. We have been extremely encouraged by the overwhelming response from our colleagues who indicate **“this is one of the most critical additions to the UK campus;”** **“how has it taken us this long to have a coordinated effort led by the most appropriate group to address this huge problem?”** and **“Your vision offers so much to campus and beyond—I can't think of anything more important.”**
- (3) All UK benchmarks and aspirational universities currently have Centers for Health Equity, placing us at a competitive disadvantage for extramural research and training funding. CHET will increase the competitiveness of UK investigators for extramural funding, enhance UK's visibility and national reputation national recognition for rigorous research in health equity, and train the next generation of health equity scholars. The Center will offer pilot funding, a stimulating speaker series, provide health equity-focused grants consultation and boiler plate material, and house a professional mentorship program to prepare the next generation of health equity researchers

(4) In addition to serving the UK campus by enhancing research and training opportunities, CHET addresses the mandate of land grant institutions to serve the public by conducting relevant, transformational research and training. CHET will welcome public engagement through our existing productive community partnerships and new opportunities for outreach and in-reach. A central location, a speaker series, and a strong web and social media presence enable increased public engagement. Simply having CHET demonstrates UK's commitment to health equity and will encourage underrepresented groups to consider UK. We anticipate that CHET will attract a strong level of interest, bringing in both local and national talent and expertise in health equity.

To support these efforts, The VPR has pledged operational support for pilot and other programs; the Dean of Medicine and the Director of the Markey Cancer Center each will support recruitment of two Regular Title Series tenure track positions over the next three years (4 total), with at least three additional tenure track positions in FY 22 and FY 23 pledged with evidence of progress (7 total). Administrative and student/postdoctoral support will be provided, and it is anticipated that the Center will be housed in contiguous space in RB2.

Through the UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET), we propose to leverage the confluence of circumstances posed to improve health equity, including the Kentucky legislature's major investment in a health disparities research facility (RB 2, a \$265 million research building); implementation of UK's strategic plan (emphasizing community engagement, transdisciplinary research, and student success); new calls from foundations and federal agencies to combat health disparities; and a critical mass of stellar UK faculty and students with health equity-focused research and training successes interested in joining forces to create the nation's most innovative, impactful research and training Center. Thank you for your consideration of CHET.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy E. Schoenberg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Nancy E. Schoenberg, Ph.D.
Marion Pearsall Professor of Behavioral Science



Office of the Vice President for Research

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Lexington, KY 40506-0032
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March 28 2018

Dr. Katherine McCormick
Chair, University Senate Council
University of Kentucky
201 Main Building
CAMPUS 0032

Dear Dr. McCormick:

The Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of Kentucky is pleased to offer support for the creation of the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) as a multidisciplinary center homed in the College of Medicine (COM), the University of Kentucky. To comply with GRV11, our Office delegates administrative responsibility to the College of Medicine. To support CHET, the Office of research will provide pilot grant funding opportunities for five years, as indicated in CHET's documentation.

CHET's objective of enhancing transdisciplinary health equity research converges closely with UK's strategic plan for research productivity. Through this transformative Center, we have a significant opportunity to address the major and underlying causes of morbidity and mortality in the Commonwealth and beyond. We are especially excited about the transdisciplinary focus of CHET, which will enhance theoretical and methodological robustness of UK's health equity research and training, and strengthen chances of external funding for CHET's research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Cassis'.

Lisa Cassis, PhD
Vice President for Research
Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Nutritional Sciences

March 21, 2018

Dr. Katherine McCormick
Chair, University Senate Council
University of Kentucky
201 Main Building
CAMPUS 0032

Dear Dr. McCormick:

I request the consideration and support of the University Senate for the creation of the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) as a multidisciplinary center at College of Medicine (COM), the University of Kentucky.

This proposal for the creation of the new center and of its academic research program has been endorsed and approved by COM Faculty Council (documentation enclosed). In addition, the COM departments and several colleges that will contribute to this multidisciplinary program have each offered their strong support (documentation enclosed). The new center will administratively report to the College of Medicine, and I enthusiastically commit the needed resources described in the proposal. This unit and program will not require specific resources from the Provost. It is most appropriate that the new program be homed in a MultiDisciplinary Research Center (an educational unit, GR VII.C.5), rather than an administrative center, because of the significant level of research-themed educational activity that will be created, homed and delivered by faculty from the auspices of this new academic unit

The mission of the center is to coordinate transdisciplinary, translational research and training efforts across diseases, behaviors, and UK's units to address health inequities. The focus will be to foster the most innovative, impactful, and productive research to improve health equity and to train the next generation of stellar health equity scholars. Other goals of the Center will be to foster collaboration among clinical and basic scientists, stimulate educational activities, and increase national recognition for the University in the field of research on Health Equity. The Center will promote specific research- and education-related initiatives by integrating the activities of various investigators across the University in the Colleges of Medicine, Arts and Sciences, Nursing, Communication, Health Sciences, Public Health, and Business and Economics. The Center will promote scientific collaboration and develop translational research, as well as promote national and international recognition of the University by its research and educational excellence.

I appreciate your careful evaluation and action on this proposal. I will be pleased to answer any questions and provide clarifications if needed. By copy of this letter I am routing this proposal concurrently to Provost David Blackwell.

Sincerely,



Robert S. DiPaola, M.D.
Dean, College of Medicine
Vice President for Clinical Academic Affairs

Cc: Dr. David W. Blackwell, Provost

seeblue.



College of Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

March 28, 2018

Dear Dr. Nancy E. Schoenberg,

The College of Arts & Sciences (A&S) is excited to provide the strongest possible support for your proposed Multidisciplinary Research Center, the UK *Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET)*. CHET's objective of enhancing transdisciplinary health equity research and promoting health equity training is a profoundly important mission for UK. A&S is most passionate about supporting this exciting initiative.

With scholars focused on health inequalities research and teaching in more than twelve A&S departments or programs, our college looks forward to playing a significant role in the innovation and impact CHET promises. We are especially excited about the transdisciplinary focus of CHET, which will enhance theoretical and methodological robustness of UK's health equity research and training, and strengthen chances of external funding for CHET's research, training, and outreach.

The College of Arts & Sciences is committed to partnering with the College of Medicine and many other Colleges across UK to ensure the enduring success of this Center. In particular, we will provide significant support to the Center. Specifically, we will allocate effort for Dr. Carrie Oser, Professor of Sociology, to serve as Associate Director of Outreach and Dissemination for CHET. Additionally, given the great potential of CHET and our mutual interests in enhancing health related research and training, the College of Arts & Sciences is pleased to commit pilot grants as well as other operational funds.

A&S has just completed a cluster hire of RTS faculty members with health equities research agendas that complement our growing Health, Society, & Populations (HSP) programs. The college intends to add additional hires in the future with specialties in this area as well. Of course, the additions will be dependent upon larger funding issues not deteriorating significantly. We believe that focusing hiring in this arena aligns the College of Arts & Sciences most fully with the strengths of the University of Kentucky and provides a greatest likelihood of substantially increasing external grant funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to collaborate across campus to promote this innovative and important new center for health equity research and training.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lawrence Kornbluh'.

Mark Lawrence Kornbluh
Dean

see blue.

March 21, 2018

Dr. Katherine McCormick
Chair,
University Senate Council
University of Kentucky
201 Main Building
CAMPUS 0032

Dear Dr. McCormick:

At its March 20, 2018 meeting, the Faculty Council of the College of Medicine (COM) discussed the proposal to create a multidisciplinary research center, the UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). This proposal was initiated by Dr. Nancy Schoenberg, Ph.D. from the Department of Behavioral Science. Dr. Schoenberg presented the academic goals and organization of the Center to the Council and fielded questions from the group. The proposal was well justified. Its academic goals and objectives are both timely and critical for improving the health and wellbeing of the Commonwealth's citizens. The administrative structure of the Center is sound and the appropriate commitments for financial support were provided by the Dean of the COM, the Director of the Markey Cancer, and the Vice President of Research. The proposed academic programs of CHET will clearly be an asset to the both faculty and students at UK.

The Faculty Council was briefed on its roles to approve the academic research program in view of the academic requirements of the Board of Trustees for multidisciplinary research centers, which are one kind of University educational unit (GR VII.C.5). It is also the Faculty Council's responsibility to render its opinion on the sufficiency and appropriateness of the administrative resources to be provided and the organizational reporting of the new unit to the Dean of the COM.

The Faculty Council is very enthusiastic about this proposal for CHET. The Faculty Council voted unanimously

(1) to approve the merit of the proposed new academic research program and its academic content, and

(2) to endorse the administrative resources and organizational reporting.

The proposal is hereby submitted for the next steps in the process.

Sincerely,



Sidney W. Whiteheart, Ph.D.
University Research Professor
COM Faculty Council Chair



To: University Senate
From: Nancy Schoenberg, proposed director, The Center for Health Equity Research Transformation (CHET)
Re: Responses to the Senate application questions
Date: 3-23-18

The attached application provides specify and detail on the questions below.

1) What is the impetus for the proposed change?

Please see A.2.

2) What are the benefits and weaknesses of the proposed unit with specific emphasis on the academic merits for the proposed change?

Please see A.3-2-3 for the benefits of the proposed Center on education and training. Regarding weaknesses, while the Center will invite as many students and postdoctoral fellows to participate in trainings, workshops, and research teams, current resource allocations will limit the number of trainees. In the future, with added training programs and expanded faculty, CHET will accommodate more students and postdoctoral fellows.

3) Describe the organization of the current structure and how the proposed structure will be different and better. Current and proposed organizational charts are often helpful in illustrating reporting lines.

Please see organizational chart, Appendix.

4) How does the change fit with department, college, and/or university objectives and priorities?

Please see A.2-1 for the convergence between university objectives and priorities and the proposed Center.

5) How does this change better position the proposers relative to state and national peers, as well as University Benchmark Institutions? How does the change help UK meet the goals of its strategic plan?

Please see A.2-1 for information on the proposed Center's capacity to achieve similar standards to our benchmark universities and A.2-1 and A.2-2 for how the proposed Center meets to goals of the strategic plan.

6) Who are the key personnel associated with the proposed unit? Provide qualifications of these personnel in a brief form. A complete curriculum vitae for each person is not needed, although pertinent information in tabular format is helpful.

Please see B.2-1-1 and B.2-1-2 for information on the proposed Director; B.1-2 for information on the founding faculty affiliates. Section B.1-3 provides information on the new core faculty (7 Regular Title Series over FY 19-23). A list of additional faculty affiliates is provided in the Appendix.

7) Discuss leadership and selection process for appointing a chair, a director, or interim leader and search process, etc.

Please see B.2-1.

8) What is the function of the faculty/staff associated with the proposed change and how is that relationship defined? Discuss DOE, adjunct, full-time, voting rights, etc.

Please see B.1-1. Faculty Membership of CHET, B.1-2. Faculty Affiliation with CHET, and B.1-3. New Core Faculty and Affiliate Members of CHET.

9) Will the proposed change involve multiple schools or colleges?

Yes, CHET will involve faculty and potentially students from across UK, but the Center will not change existing units.

10) If the proposed change will involve transferring personnel from one unit to another, provide evidence that the donor unit is willing and able to release the personnel.

N/A

11) What is the arrangement of faculty associated with the proposed change and how is that relationship defined? Discuss faculty DOE and status as adjunct, tenure track, or tenured. Describe the level of faculty input in the policy-making process including voting rights and advisory.

Please see B.1-1. Faculty Membership of CHET, B.1-2. Faculty Affiliation with CHET, B.1-3. New Core Faculty and Affiliate Members of CHET, and B.2-6. Reporting Relationships.

12) Discuss any implications of the proposal for accreditation by SACS and/or other organizations.

N/A

13) What is the timeline for key events in the proposed change? Student enrollments, graduates, moved programs, closed courses, new faculty and staff hires, etc.

We anticipate a start date of August 1, with student RA positions beginning at that time and faculty recruitment. Below is a brief timeline:

Year 1 (2018): Hire 2-3 RTS faculty, postdoc/students, staff; T32 submission, Dream scholars and other training programs

Year 2 (2019): Hire 2 RTS faculty, postdoc/students, Center of Excellence submission, Dream scholars and other training programs

Year 3 (2020): Hire 1-2 RTS faculty, postdoc/students, R series applications submission, Dream scholars and other training programs

Year 4 (2021): Hire 1-2 RTS faculty, postdoc/students, P30/ PPG submission, Dream scholars and other training programs

Year 5 (2022): Hire 1-2 RTS faculty, postdoc/students, various NIH submissions, Dream scholars and other training programs

14) If the proposal involves degree changes*, describe how the proposed structure will enhance students' education and make them more competitive. Discuss the impact on current and future students. State assumptions underlying student enrollment growth and describe the plans for student recruitment.

N/A

15) Include evidence that adequate financial resources exist for the proposed unit to be viable. A general description of the new costs and funding should be provided. A letter from the Provost, Dean, or other relevant administrators may affirm commitment to provide financial resources as appropriate. An exhaustive budget is not expected.

Please see Appendix for letters from Dean DiPaola and VPR Cassis

16) The proposal should document any faculty votes and departmental or school committee votes as appropriate leading up to this point in the process. The SAOSC recommends that faculty votes be by secret ballot. Include in your documentation of each vote taken the total number of eligible voters and the number that actually voted along with the break-down of the vote into numbers for, against and abstaining. A Chair or Dean may appropriately summarize supporting and opposing viewpoints expressed during faculty discussions.

Please see Appendix for letters from Markey Cancer Center Director and College of Medicine Faculty Council. Both bodies approved the creation of CHET unanimously.

17) The committee will want to see evidence of academic merit and support from key parties. Letters of support (or opposition) are encouraged from the relevant senior faculty and administrators. Relevant faculty and administrators include those in units directly involved in the proposed change (including existing units from which a new unit may be formed.)

Please see Appendix. Letters include all relevant Institute and Center Directors (Markey Cancer Center, Barnstable Brown, Center of Drug and Alcohol Research, CCTS, Gill Heart Institute, Deans (Public Health, Medicine, Arts and Sciences), Department of Behavioral Science, UK Institutional Diversity, etc.

18) Indicate how the new structure will be evaluated as to whether it is meeting the objectives for its formation. Timing of key events is helpful.

The Center will be evaluated on its submission of grant applications, hiring faculty members, hiring students and postdoctoral fellows, ability to initiate and sustain a speaker series, successful development and retention of training programs, and successful conduct of pilot grant competitions. An evaluation will be undertaken by the Dean of the College of Medicine annually. Please see B.2-9-2.

19) Letters of support from outside the University may be helpful in understanding why this change helps people beyond the University.

N/A. We have gathered dozens of letters from inside UK. In the Appendix, there is justification provided by examining the benchmarks.

Proposal to Establish The University of Kentucky Center for Health Equity Transformation

Nancy Schoenberg, PhD, Marion Pearsall Professor of Behavioral Science, College of Medicine

March, 2018

Executive Summary: This proposal to form a Multidisciplinary Research Center (MDRC) -- The University of Kentucky (UK) Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET)-derives from the need to address the tremendous burdens of and from poor health experienced by Kentuckians and others. Kentuckians suffer among the highest national rates of morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular disease, cancer, substance abuse, diabetes, and obesity. The burden of these diseases falls disproportionately on rural, racial/ethnic and sexual minorities, and lower socioeconomic status groups. CHET will coordinate transdisciplinary, translational research and training efforts across diseases, behaviors, and UK's units to address such inequities. We will increase the competitiveness of UK investigators for extramural funding, enhance UK's visibility and national reputation for health equity research, and train the next generation of health equity scholars. CHET will promote specific research and education-related initiatives by hiring new faculty and engaging existing UK investigators who have expertise in behavioral/social science, health sciences, communication, public health, biomedical informatics, and clinical and translational sciences, and many others from across the entire range of UK colleges and Centers.

A. Academic Parameters

A.1. Goals and Significance

A.1-1. Research Goals. The goal in establishing this new Multidisciplinary Research Center (MDRC) is to enhance health equity research productivity & educational enrichment. CHET will foster and catalyze research across the translational spectrum, from improving understanding of the risk factors that contribute to health inequalities to implementing, disseminating, and evaluating interventions, programs and policies that remedy such inequalities. The proposed Center also will expand training opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and professional students, improve graduate student and faculty recruitment, particularly of underrepresented groups, and improve health equity while growing UK's national reputation. (See LOS, Dr. Feist-Price)

A.1-2. Significance of Research Goals. CHET will benefit the academic units of member investigators, enhancing the success of participating faculty members and expanding learning opportunities for trainees. This initiative also will complement research activities in established centers at UK by providing expertise in health equity research and methods (for example dissemination and implementation science). CHET will assist with background justifications for grant proposals (e.g., provide epidemiological evidence of disease burdens), boiler plate materials on vulnerable populations' health challenges, and grant review. Academic enrichment opportunities also involve a pilot project competition, a speaker series, and extensive training opportunities.

A.2. Justification of the Program of Multidisciplinary Research

A.2-1. University Need for This Program of Research. A confluence of circumstances optimizes the present time to bring together essential resources to improve health equity, including the Kentucky legislature's major investment in a health disparities research facility (RB 2, a \$265 million research building); implementation of UK's strategic plan (emphasizing community engagement, transdisciplinary research, and student success); new calls from foundations and federal agencies to combat health disparities; and a critical mass of stellar UK faculty and

students with health equity-focused research and training successes interested in joining forces to create the nation's most innovative, impactful research and training Center. Nearly all UK benchmarks and aspirational universities have made significant investments in health equity research and training through such centers (see Appendix), enhancing scholarly productivity and facilitating recruitment of underrepresented minorities. Although UK has a growing number of investigators engaged in health equity research, the absence of a central, unifying Center places UK at a competitive disadvantage. These researchers are generally relying on their individual talents and collaborating informally across units to address health inequity. These investigators also lack fundamental opportunities, including pilot grants and the intellectual enrichment provided by visiting and nationally renowned speakers; and they lack substantive and methodological assistance in the form of health equity-focused grant reviews, manuscript development, and boilerplate material that would foster success. Coordination of these investigators, plus an infusion of new faculty, students, and post-doctoral scholars will complement existing research programs.

It should be noted that the development of the Center offers the opportunity to improve recruitment and retention of traditionally underserved minority (URM) and rural faculty and students to UK. CHET will increase our competitive advantage for hiring/retaining underrepresented minority (URM) faculty and students for at least two reasons. First, simply having CHET demonstrates UK's commitment to health equity and will encourage URM and rural faculty and graduate students to consider UK. Second, health equity research attracts URM and rural investigators, who are often motivated to understand and address health challenges in their origin communities and beyond. We anticipate that CHET will attract a strong level of interest, bringing in both local and national talent and expertise in health equity.

A.2-2. Enabling a Research Program through the New Center. The UK Center for Health Equity Transformation will rectify the current lack of a coordinated, systematic effort to bring people together to develop the most innovative, transdisciplinary health equity focused programming. Over the next five years, guided by our core members, founding affiliate members, 85 affiliates across campus, our Executive Council, and our External Advisory Board, we will leverage existing strengths across UK and hire at least 7 new faculty members and 5 postdoctoral fellows or students. (See LOS, numerous Center Directors and faculty) Although CHET also will be focused on training and education, we will not require initiation of new degree programs, as students will matriculate in established degree programs. Existing UK faculty affiliates will remain in their current units; several faculty have agreed to have some effort allocated to CHET. Recruitment of new faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and students will align with the UK research strategic plan.

A.3. The Research Program to be Conducted.

A.3-1. Securing Extramural Research Funding. We anticipate that within the first three years, several large scale training and research applications will be submitted. First, we will submit a T32 training program in Summer 2018 to the National Cancer Institute. Second, we will develop a competitive application to the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, which extends a call for Center of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD U54). It should be noted that last year, CHET director Schoenberg and colleagues submitted an application in response to this call. While reviews were highly favorable, concern was expressed over a lack of a centralized effort to bring researchers together, inadequate "critical mass" and insufficient expertise in intervention, dissemination, and implementation research, all areas CHET will target with faculty hires. Finally, it is anticipated that at least one P30 Center or

program project grant (PPG) application will be developed. It is anticipated that additional faculty, hired through lines in the College of Medicine and Markey Cancer Center will provide this critical mass in intervention, dissemination, and implementation science, the focus of emergent health equity research. There is no duplication or substantial overlap in any educational units and the currently proposed new center.

A.3-2. Additional Program Activities. The additional activities described here will support the research and education efforts of CHET and also have numerous benefits across the UK campus by stimulating research collaboration, enhancing graduate and postdoctoral education, and increasing the national visibility of health equity research at UK.

A.3-2-1. Funding for pilot research. CHET will establish a program for funding small projects needed to generate pilot data for new grant applications. Priority will be given to collaborative, transdisciplinary projects that focus on UK's research strategic plan's health priorities and intervention, dissemination and implementation science. (See LOS, VPR)

A.3-2-2. Outside speakers. CHET will regularly sponsor visits by prominent health equity scientists. These speakers will present public seminars and meet with interested scientists and trainees from across campus. Trainees will leverage the considerable resources across campus (Center for Clinical and Translational Science, [CCTS], BIRCHW, VPR's research series, etc.) to provide education on professional socialization, production of scholarly products, etc. These extant training resources will be supplemented by CHET's own health equity-focused speaker series and training opportunities that target the topical focus of health equity and the cutting edge research approaches in intervention, dissemination and implementation science.

A.3-2-3. Training and Education. CHET will enhance the number, capacity, and synergy of health equity researchers through education, training and professional development, enabling them to undertake innovative, transdisciplinary science. Providing education, training, and professional development opportunities and contribute to the pipeline of successful health equity researchers, we will take three approaches. First, CHET will collaborate with the CCTS and the College of Nursing to implement the DREAM Scholars program, a professional research mentorship program developed by College of Nursing faculty member, Dr. Jenna Hatcher. This program will bring together students, postdocs, and junior faculty to enhance their success transition to becoming independent health equity scholars. Past DREAM Scholars programming includes writing retreats, presenting works in progress and other research, providing information on opportunities for health equity scholars in and outside UK, navigating early career choices, etc. Also, CHET will support graduate and professional education in health equity through numerous mechanisms. NIH training grants, including a T32 program, will be developed to support graduate students and postdoctoral stipends. Graduate students will have their academic home within the degree program of their department, but we anticipate that CHET will foster increased opportunities for these students to become enriched by engaging in transdisciplinary initiatives, including seminars, speaker series, and interacting with CHET faculty and affiliates formally and informally. In the future, we will develop a junior version of the DREAM Scholars program, the Student Ambassador Program. (See LOS, CCTS PI, Dr. Kern)

A.3-2-4. Assistance with health equity grant proposal development. CHET will offer tangible assistance to investigators across UK by providing assistance developing health equity related background and significance sections for grant applications, customizing boilerplate materials, conducting grant reviews, and providing methodological consultations.

A.3-2-5. Research dissemination. CHET faculty and affiliates' collective research outcomes will be disseminated to the scientific community through publications and conference presentations. As is standard in health equity research, sharing research results with the greater public through websites, print and social media, and public presentations ensures that the land grant, public mission of UK is upheld.

A.3-2-6. Annual research retreat. Each year, CHET will hold an off-campus research retreat for member investigators, their trainees, outside speakers, and interested members of the university and lay community. Planning and program decisions will be made by CHET membership and participants from outside CHET will be invited to attend. A distinguished visiting lecturer will be invited to stimulate discussion and to provide methodological and professional insights. CHET faculty members, affiliates, students, and recipients of pilot grants will present research orally or through poster presentations. Student presentations will be judged for scientific excellence by a panel of member investigators and awards will be presented.

B. Organizational and Infrastructural Parameters

B.1. Governance and Membership.

B.1-1. Faculty Membership of CHET. In accordance with the University Governing Regulations, the voting membership of the Faculty body of CHET will be those faculty approved to have a formal DOE assignment of time to the activities of CHET's program (GR VII.A.7). Over the next five years, CHET will provide the funding to support the full-time salary of at least seven faculty members, whose appointments will be homed in academic departments but who have their DOE assignments expressly to the activities of the Center (hereafter "Core" member). The summative amount of formal DOE assignment to the Core faculty members will easily exceed the 1 FTE equivalent specific by GR VII.

B.1-2. Faculty Affiliation with CHET. In addition to the Core faculty, CHET will be enhanced by the contributing activities of affiliated faculty, whose interactions with other Center faculty, facilitated by CHET, will enhance both CHET's and their home departments' programs, but without necessarily maintaining a formal DOE assignment with CHET. University faculty members who are independent investigators, educators, or clinicians with a specific interest in the field of health equity research are welcome to apply for affiliation with CHET. CHET will be explicitly transdisciplinary, welcoming the affiliated contribution from colleagues across UK. Affiliates do not automatically possess Faculty membership, but may be afforded the privileges of membership, with or without voting status, by the members of the Faculty body (see B.1-1, B.1-3).

Founding affiliate members of CHET will include:

Matthew L. Bush, MD, PhD, Vice Chair for Research and Associate Professor, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, College of Medicine. Dr. Bush is a surgeon scientist who has a research focus on increasing access to and timely delivery of specialty healthcare in underserved populations. His current work involves healthcare clinical trial design and execution among vulnerable populations which incorporates mixed methodology along with implementation research approaches. His work is currently funded by the NIH (1K23DC014074).

Roberto Cardarelli, DO, MHA, MPH is Professor and Interim Chair for the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Department of Family & Community Medicine. His research is focused in implementation science and clinic transformation research in chronic pain management, lung cancer screening, tobacco cessation, care transitions, and cardiovascular health. He has been funded by NIH and numerous federal and nonfederal organizations. He currently directs the Kentucky Ambulatory Practice-based Research Network (KAN) that is focused in helping primary care clinics in implementing QI models to improve the care they deliver to their populations.

Lisa Cliggett PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Cliggett's research examines the socio-political, economic and ecological dynamics of development and change, including health, in Zambia, Southern Africa. Her current and past research is supported by the National Science Foundation.

Alison Davis PhD, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Director of the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK). Dr. Davis's research and engagement work focuses on economic development, health access, and civic engagement in primarily rural communities in Kentucky. Dr. Davis manages 14 research and engagement staff with funding from USDA, Appalachian Regional Commission, and private foundations.

Mark Dignan, PhD, MPH Professor, Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Dignan's research is focused on cancer prevention and control for rural and medically underserved populations. His projects have developed and evaluated the effectiveness of interventions to increase screening and follow-up for abnormal screening test results and have included partnerships with community members, healthcare providers and healthcare delivery systems. His current project is to increase patient navigation for Appalachian populations and is supported by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Amanda Fallin-Bennett, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, College of Nursing. Dr. Fallin-Bennett's research focus is on reducing tobacco use among vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, women with substance use disorders, sexual and gender minority women, and residents of rural communities. Her studies have been supported by a Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health training grant, as well as funding from March of Dimes, American Nurse Foundation, Foundation for a Healthy KY, and the Kentucky Department of Public Health.

Anita Fernander, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Behavioral Science, College of Medicine. Dr. Fernander's focus is on race, racism and how other social inequities influence health disparities among racial/ethnic populations. More recently, she has been exploring how cultural humility can serve as a transformative catalyst for healthcare professionals to promote health equity. In addition, Dr. Fernander serves as founder and chair of the Lexington-Fayette County Health Disparities Coalition.

Nancy Grant Harrington, PhD, is Professor of Communication, Director of the Health Communication Research Collaborative, and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Communication and Information; she also holds an academic appointment in the School of Public Health and is a faculty associate of the Multidisciplinary Center on Drug and Alcohol Research. Dr. Harrington's research focuses on persuasive message design in the health behavior change context. Her current work focuses on developing training materials to improve

patient-provider communication in contexts such as substance use treatment referral, tobacco cessation, and cost-of-care conversations.

Debra K Moser PhD, Professor and Linda C. Gill Chair of Cardiovascular Nursing, Director RICH Heart Program, College of Nursing. Dr. Moser's focus is cardiovascular disease risk reduction in vulnerable populations with marked health disparities. She uses a biobehavioral approach to her work, and concentrates on how social determinants of health affect intervention delivery and outcomes. Her recent studies involve testing a unique cardiovascular risk reduction intervention among rural caregivers of individuals with chronic illness and she is working with interdisciplinary partners to determine the effects of cardiovascular disease risk reduction efforts (that include dietary modification) on TMAO and on the interplay of environmental pollutants with such interventions. Her work is supported by NIH and PCORI grants (R01NR016824, R01NR014189).

Brittany Smalls, PhD, Assistant Professor, Center for Health Services Research, College of Medicine. Dr. Smalls' research focus is addressing social determinants of health and its influence on self-care in those with complex chronic disease, especially older adults. My research includes serving as co-investigator on 2 NIH R01 grants: (1) reducing cardiovascular risk in caregivers in rural Appalachia (1R01NR016824) and (2) improving self-care and access to care in those with type 2 diabetes living in rural Appalachia (1R01DK112136).

Robin C. Vanderpool, DrPH, Associate Professor, Department of Health, Behavior & Society, College of Public Health. Dr. Vanderpool's focus is on addressing cancer disparities across the care continuum among rural and Appalachian populations. Her recent studies involve working with health systems in eastern Kentucky to implement evidence-based approaches to increasing cancer screening rates among their patient populations; conducting an Appalachian KY cancer needs assessment on behalf of the UK Markey Cancer Center; and assessing the feasibility of connected health approaches to improve cancer symptom management among patients residing in eastern Kentucky. Her research is supported by NCI and CDC funding.

Lovoria B. Williams, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, Associate Professor, College of Nursing. Her research focuses on implementing multi-level interventions to reduce obesity and lung cancer disparities among African Americans and medically underserved population through community based participatory methods. Her work is funded by grants from the NIH, State, and Foundations.

April Young, PhD MPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, College of Public Health. Dr. Young's research has a two-tiered approach with overarching aims to (1) to reduce the disproportionate burden of opioid use and related harms in rural Central Appalachia, and (2) to conduct epidemiologic research that enables better characterization of risk networks and their contribution to HIV, hepatitis C, and related outcomes. Her research has been supported by grants from NIH (R21 DA042727, R03 DA039740, R43 MH106361) and a cooperative agreement from NIH, CDC, SAMHSA, and the Appalachian Regional Commission (UG3 DA044798).

James P. Ziliak, PhD, Gatton Endowed Chair in Microeconomics, Director of Center for Poverty Research and Kentucky Federal Statistical Research Data Center. His research expertise is on the linkages between U.S. tax and transfer policies and poverty, inequality, food insecurity, and other household behaviors. Recent research is on links between food insecurity and poor health, the causes and correlates of rising inequality, and the determinants of persistent poverty

in rural communities. His research is supported by DHHS grant number AE00103, and USDA (ERS) grant 58-5000-3-0066.

B.1-3. New Core Faculty and Affiliate Members of CHET. With funds supported by the College of Medicine and the Markey Cancer Center, we will recruit 7 or more faculty members, regular title series, all ranks considered, to the University of Kentucky. As shown in the Appendix, 85 UK faculty members from every College across campus have requested affiliation with CHET, which we are honored to extend. As CHET is successful in acquiring sustaining extramural funding, we anticipate additional funding opportunities, more faculty hires, additional undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral fellow positions, and more extensive research activities. As Affiliates obtain more health equity funding, it is likely that they will contribute more formally, eventually becoming Core CHET members. Although funded grants which are housed directly in CHET pay the full salary of a Research Title Series faculty members, these Research Title Series faculty must have their primary academic home in a department, just like the tenured faculty who are paid by CHET. It is also envisioned that the scope of funding opportunities will increase with CHET's success, and this increased scope will also attract the interest and participation of new Affiliate faculty. CHET will be explicitly multidisciplinary, welcoming members from any educational unit.

B.2. Administrative Governance. Center activities will be overseen by the Director who will have overall administrative responsibility. The Director will be advised by an Executive Council and an External Advisory Board (EAB). The specifics of appointment categories, leadership, and advisory bodies are as follows:

B.2-1. Director. The Director will have primary responsibility for administrative oversight of Center activities and finances. The Director, with the consultative input of the faculty, will approve new persons to affiliated membership in CHET (see B.1-1, 2 above). CHET designates individuals to serve in leadership positions, including the Executive Council and External Advisory Board. The Director will report on Center activities to the Dean of the College of Medicine, and will represent CHET in external affairs. The Director will be appointed for a six-year term by the Dean of the College of Medicine with confirmation by the Provost, Board of Trustees, and President. The Director will be subject to annual performance reviews by the Dean. Overall performance of the Director will be evaluated externally as part of the formal institutional review of CHET. This information will be made available to the Dean and other University leadership for use in deliberations regarding possible re-appointment. The Director will be eligible for reappointment upon recommendation of the Dean with institutional approval as above.

B.2-1-1. Proposed Director. Nancy E. Schoenberg, Ph.D. (25% effort) serves as the Marion Pearsall Professor of Behavioral Science, with appointments in Internal Medicine, Markey Cancer Center, Barnstable Brown Diabetes and Obesity Center, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, and in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Communication, and Public Health. Dr. Schoenberg received her doctoral degree in Medical Anthropology, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in Health Policy and Epidemiology at the University of Florida. She has served as a faculty member at UK for 21 years.

B.2-1-2. Proposed Director Qualifications. Dr. Schoenberg has the appropriate leadership capacities, mentorship skills, and research credentials to direct the proposed center. She recently (2014-2017) served as Associate Dean for Research in UK's College of Public Health, overseeing grant portfolio of over \$53 million from federal, state, and local agencies and

foundations. She currently serves as co-Director of the Community Engagement and Research Core for UK's CCTS; co-Chair of the NIH's CIHB study section; a member of three editorial boards; and as Associate Editor for The Gerontologist (lead journal on aging, 2007-2013). Dr. Schoenberg has served as a PI, MPI or co-investigator on six training grants, several NRSA and K awards, and as mentor to 56 pre doctoral, doctoral, postdoctoral, or junior faculty members, collaborating on 120 + presentations and publications with junior colleagues. Dr. Schoenberg and colleagues have been continuously funded by the NIH since 2000, with over \$20 million in grant funding as Principal Investigator or MPI; over \$27 million as PI/director on multisite network grants; and \$6 million as co-investigator. She currently leads three R01 projects, all located in Appalachian Kentucky, where she maintains a research staff and facility. The common bond of all of these activities is her commitment to improving health equity across populations.

B.2-1-3. Proposed Associate Directors. As illustrated in the organizational chart (Appendix), CHET's structure involves Associate Directors (Dr. Carrie Oser plus two to be named). Not only will these three individuals contribute diverse perspectives and allow for decisions to be made more democratically, but these Associate Directors also will provide expertise beyond that of the Director. Three Associate Directorships provide this structure, including Associate Directors of Outreach and Dissemination, of Research, and of Training. It is anticipated that at least 20% effort will be allocated to each Associate Director position. The Associate Director of Research and of Training will be Core members hired into those positions or will be existing faculty members, with effort provided by their Colleges. They will be selected by the Executive Council of CHET with input from CHET Core and other Faculty members, in collaboration with the hiring College (for the first three years, the College of Medicine). As stated in B.2-6., the Director will evaluate the Associate Directors' CHET-related performance if their DOE comprises more than 20% of the faculty member's DOE duties. The Director of CHET will report the merit score(s) to the unit administrator of the individual's primary unit.

Dr. Carrie Oser (Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences) will serve as the Associate Director of Outreach and Dissemination, providing critical liaison initiatives between CHET, College of Arts and Sciences, and all other units across campus. Dr. Oser's effort will be supported by the College of Arts and Sciences (See LOS, Dean Kornbluh). Additionally, as an expert in substance abuse, health equity, women's health, social networks, and interventions and implementation science, Dr. Oser enhances the expertise of CHET. Continuously funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) since joining the Sociology Department in 2006, she has served as Principal Investigator on over \$4.3 million in grant funding and \$26.5 million as a co-investigator. Having published 100+ articles in peer reviewed journals, Dr. Oser has achieved remarkable research success, all the while serving as a strong mentor to numerous graduate students, post-doctoral candidates, and junior faculty. Dr. Oser received was the 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Mentoring Award from the College of Arts & Sciences as well as the 2015 Mentor Recognition Award from the CCTS.

B.2-2. Staff Administrator. CHET Staff Administrator (100% effort, supported by COM) will assist the Director with finances, record keeping, and coordination of Center activities. Among other duties, this person will maintain Center accounts, oversee expenditures, record minutes of Center committees, monitor the annual budget, represent CHET with administrators in other academic units, assist in the preparation of grant applications, maintain the CHET website, distribute notices of Center activities, coordinate itineraries and travel arrangements for visiting scientists and faculty candidates, integrate Center speakers with seminar series in other academic units, maintain documentation on the applicant pool for Center trainee programs, and organize the annual research retreat.

B.2-3. Executive Council. The Executive Council will be the principal faculty advisory body to the Director concerning the administrative operation of CHET. It will comprise nine voting members. The Director (Council chair) will be permanent member, as will the Associate Directors. Three core faculty members of CHET and other two affiliate members (B.1-1) will serve three-year terms on a rotating basis. Comprehensive participation will strengthen ties of individual members to Center governance and will promote transparency in Council activities. CHET Staff Administrator will attend Council meetings to consult on financial and administrative issues, take minutes, and record attendance. Minutes of Council deliberations will be vetted by attendees, edited, and archived for access by program participants and the External Advisory Board (B.2-4).

Responsibilities of the Council will be to: (a) solicit nominees for membership or affiliation of the faculty of CHET; (b) facilitate faculty and postdoctoral fellow recruitment, hiring, and mentorship, as needed; (c) provide oversight on Center programs and activities, and (d) advise the Director on new Center initiatives and on resolution of problems. The Council activities will provide an internal mechanism for ongoing improvement of CHET. Council will respond to concerns raised by individual members and will implement changes recommended by the External Advisory Board (see Section B.2-4).

B.2-4. External Advisory Board (EAB). The EAB will be charged with providing expert, outside evaluation of Center governance and activities. The EAB will comprise five senior faculty who currently direct successful research units at the University of Kentucky and other institutions. The EAB will meet annually for on-campus site visits of CHET. Two weeks before each visit, EAB members will receive copies of (1) an executive summary of the year's activities, (2) reprints of publications by Center investigators during the prior year; (3) grant applications submitted by Center investigators and (if available) reviewer comments; and (4) the annual financial report. During the site visit, EAB members will meet on campus with the Director and member investigators as a group and with individual investigators as appropriate. After the visit, EAB members will develop a written report on the status of CHET. The report will include perceived strengths and weaknesses of CHET, suggestions for improvement, and comments on responsiveness of CHET leadership to prior concerns. The EAB will forward this report to the Director, the Dean of the College of Medicine. Results of the EAB report will be used by the Director to improve CHET in the succeeding year.

B.2-5. Institutional Review. CHET will be subject to external review by the University at six-year intervals for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of Center activities and administration. An external review panel will be organized and given its charge by the Dean of the College of Medicine, in accordance with GRIX and AR 1:4. The panel will comprise four senior faculty from participating colleges plus a minimum of one reviewer from outside the University, all determined with the consultative input of the members of the Faculty. For purposes of evaluation, the panel will have full access to all Center documents, facilities, and personnel. The panel will convene on campus and meet personally with the Director, faculty members and affiliates, and Center-supported trainees. The panel will review documents provided to the EAB and prior EAB reports. The panel will also evaluate CHET's budget, including financial statements for previous years, and the leadership of the Director, in accordance with criteria identified pursuant to AR 1:4, Part IV.D). After the visit, the panel will prepare a formal report on their findings, including strengths and weaknesses of CHET and its leadership, and will make recommendations for improvement as appropriate. This report will be forwarded to the Director, the Dean of the College of Medicine and the Provost. It will be used to redirect and improve Center activities and governance. Continued support of CHET by the institution will be subject to an acceptable outcome from the external review process.

B.2-6. Reporting Relationships. All faculty members and faculty affiliates report to the Director on issues pertaining to CHET. The Director reports to the Dean of the College of Medicine. The Director is responsible for evaluating faculty performance for individual faculty members' activities conducted in CHET that exceed 20% of the faculty member's DOE duties. The Director of CHET will report the merit score(s) to the unit administrator of the individual's primary unit. In cases where a faculty member performs assigned DOE duties in CHET totaling 20% or less DOE, the individual's primary unit administrator will evaluate the activity performed in the CHET with input from the educational unit administrator of the secondary unit.

B.2-7. Staff and Facilities. During start-up, CHET will have administrative support from College of Medicine. The space and start up package for core faculty members recruited from other institutions will be provided by the College of Medicine and Markey Cancer Center similar to other regular recruitments in the College. Because CHET faculty members/affiliates within UK already have adequate research staff and offices, we anticipate no additional staff or equipment request, aside from co-location. Future increases in personnel or facilities will derive from new initiatives, e.g. establishment of core facilities, center grants, etc. These will be overseen by the Director in consultation with the Dean of Medicine.

B.2-8. Equipment and Instrumentation. Initial requirements are limited to computer set up and office equipment for faculty and administrative staff. Future acquisitions of equipment and instrumentation will be funded internally from CHET budget.

B.2.9. Projected budget.

B.2-9-1. Support from College Funding. The College of Medicine will provide administrative support for CHET over the next five years. Programmatic funding will be made available in FY18 (\$65,000), FY19 (\$70,000), and FY20 (\$75,000), FY 21 (\$80,000), and FY 22 (\$85,000). Additional support comes from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences. Center funds will reside in dedicated University accounts for exclusive expenditure toward Center-related initiatives. These funds will be administered by the Director through CHET Staff Administrator. Fiscal oversight will be provided by the Office of the Dean of the College of Medicine. The budget of CHET will be integrated into the annual budget of the College of Medicine for integration with University finances. The Center will manage the indirect cost return and salary reimbursement of its core members similar to an academic department of the College of Medicine. The funding from these sources together that from the College of Medicine will be used at the Director's discretion to pay for administrative staff, administrative effort (DOE) of the Director, faculty searches, visiting speakers, pilot programs, and other research-related activities to enhance CHET.

It should be noted that CHET is "adding to" rather than "competing" with units for resources. For example, if CHET receives a Center of Excellence or other award that supports salaries of persons who are affiliated faculty of CHET, the salary savings and indirect cost return will go back to the primary home department of these affiliate faculty members. Similarly, if several affiliated and an 'original core' faculty are MPIs on a R01, the salary saving and indirect cost return of the persons who are affiliate members will go to their home departments.

B.2-9-2. Potential for extramural funding. A primary goal for creating this Center is to enhance the competitiveness of UK investigators for extramural funding. With increased investment provided across campus to develop a critical cluster of health equity researchers, we anticipate that the following applications will be developed.

B.2-9-2-1. A T32 program will be submitted this year to the National Cancer Institute entitled “Environment, Behavioral, and Genetic training to reduce Appalachian cancer disparities” (Dr. Chunyan He who has expertise in genetic contributions to cancer disparities; Drs. Dignan, and Schoenberg will contribute expertise and experience in environmental and behavioral determinants of cancer disparities). Additional contributors include Drs. Jessica Burris, Jill Kolesar, Brady Reynolds, Robin Vanderpool, Jamie Studts, Ellen Hahn, and others.

B.2-9-2-2. A Center of Excellence will be submitted in two years to the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMDH U54). This COE will focus on preventing and management of co-morbidities in vulnerable Appalachian and other populations through multiple health behavior change. (Drs. Schoenberg, Moser, Vanderpool, and Dignan will contribute expertise on community-based interventions among Appalachian populations; Drs. Lovoria Williams and Brittany Smalls will provide leadership in African American health interventions. Other contributors include Drs. Carrie Oser, GQ Zhang, Nancy Harrington, Mark Evers, Susan Smyth, Brittany Smalls, John Fowlkes, Patrick Kitzman, April Young, and others.

B.2-9-2-3. An National Cancer Institute Center grant (P30) application can be initiated within four years. This P30 grant has 6 components. (a) Center Directors: the designated leader of the P30 who provides scientific and administrative leadership for the total program, (b) Administrative Core, which oversees organizational, budgeting and reporting aspects and provides the leadership for scientific and programmatic activities of the P30, (c) Pilot Projects Program, (d) Facility Cores: this core promotes sharing facilities and enhancing research or improving cost effectiveness of services, techniques, or instrumentation used by the member investigators. (e) Career Development Program for Health Equity Investigators, and (f) Community Outreach and Engagement Core (COEC). The focus of this P30 likely will be on the confluence between substance abuse and cancer. Other contributors will include Drs. Sharon Walsh, Jennifer Havens, Carl Leukefeld, Mark Evers, April Young, Steven Browning, William Stoops, Lovoria Williams, and others.

CHET is committed to enhancing research productivity and training the next generation of health researchers to engage in innovative, impactful research capable of health equality transformation, ensuring that Kentuckians, and those beyond, will have better chances for genuinely improved health outcomes.

Appendix

1. Justification documents: definition, UK Benchmarks and others with Health Equity Centers, Kentucky's health inequities, and examples of funding opportunities
2. Organizational chart and activities chart
3. Faculty affiliates across the UK campus
4. Letters from founding affiliates' chairs or deans
5. Letters of support
 - Donna Arnett, Dean, College of Public Health
 - Thomas Curry, Professor of Medicine and Director, Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health
 - Mark Evers, Director, Markey Cancer Center
 - Markey Cancer Center, Director's Council
 - Sonja Feist-Price, UK Vice President, Institutional Diversity
 - Frances Feltner, Director, Center of Excellence in Rural Health
 - John Fowlkes, Director, Barnstable Brown Diabetes and Obesity Center
 - Phillip Kern, Director, Center of Clinical and Translational Science
 - Carl Leukefeld, Chair, Department of Behavioral Science
 - Carrie Oser, Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Sociology
 - Susan Smyth, Director, Gill Heart Institute
 - Sharon Walsh, Director, Center for Drug and Alcohol Research
 - Nancy Webb, Director, Division of Nutritional Sciences

Health equity research: Examines health and health care of underserved populations: causes of these health inequities; development and evaluation of interventions to address these inequities; and dissemination, translation, and implementation of these interventions.

The need for investment in a health equity institute at UK: (1) All of UK's benchmark universities have Health Equity/Health Disparities Centers or Institutes; (2) KY has among the worst health disparities in the US; (3) UK is forfeiting tremendous NIH and other funding opportunities (Centers of excellence, P30s, PPG, etc.) without such an organizing structure; (4) CHET would tremendously strengthen existing Centers/Institutes; (5) There is tremendous interest and support across the UK campus; (6) CHET may enhance underrepresented groups' hires.

Benchmarks' Health Equity Institutes:

Benchmark/Center name	Focus/activities	Website
MI State/ Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions	Chronic disease prevention thru research projects.	http://humanmedicine.msu.edu/FLINT-CENTER-FOR-HEALTH-EQUITY-SOLUTIONS/default.htm
Ohio State/ Center for Pop Health & Health Disparities	Cancer prevention, chronic disease. speaker series, govt partnerships	https://cph.osu.edu/research/news/Center%20for%20Population%20Health%20and%20Health%20Disparities
Univ Arizona/ Center Border Health Disp & Center Dispar Diabetes, Obesity, Metabolism	10 research projects, student research opportunities; faculty hires, pilots, grant writing support.	http://cddom.uahs.arizona.edu/
Univ of CA-Davis/ Center for Reducing Health Disparities	Research, training, CE, technical assistance; 6 specific research projects.	http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/crhd/
Univ of Iowa/ Health Equity Advancement Lab	Speaker series, training, conferences, etc.	https://search.uiowa.edu/search?q=health+equity
Univ of MI/ Ctr Integrative Approaches Health Disp	UM & the Jackson Heart Study. Pilots, lectures, summer training.	https://sph.umich.edu/ciahd/
Univ of MN: Center for Health Equity	Speakers, pilots, grant support, large research projects.	https://www.ctsi.umn.edu/about/programs-and-initiatives/center-health-equity;
Univ Florida/ Health Disp Res & Intervention Program	Seminars, research support, community, pipeline program, large research projects.	http://ufhealthdisparities.med.ufl.edu/
Univ MO/ Missouri Health Equity Collaborative	Speakers, conferences, technical workshops	http://mohec.org/.
Univ of NC-Chapel Hill/ Ctr for Health Equity Res	Research support, projects, summer research program, speakers, training	http://cher.unc.edu/
Univ of WI/ Collaborative Center for Health Equity	Consultation service, core research projects, training	https://cche.wisc.edu/

Kentucky's health rankings, outcomes. Source: America's Health rankings, 2015

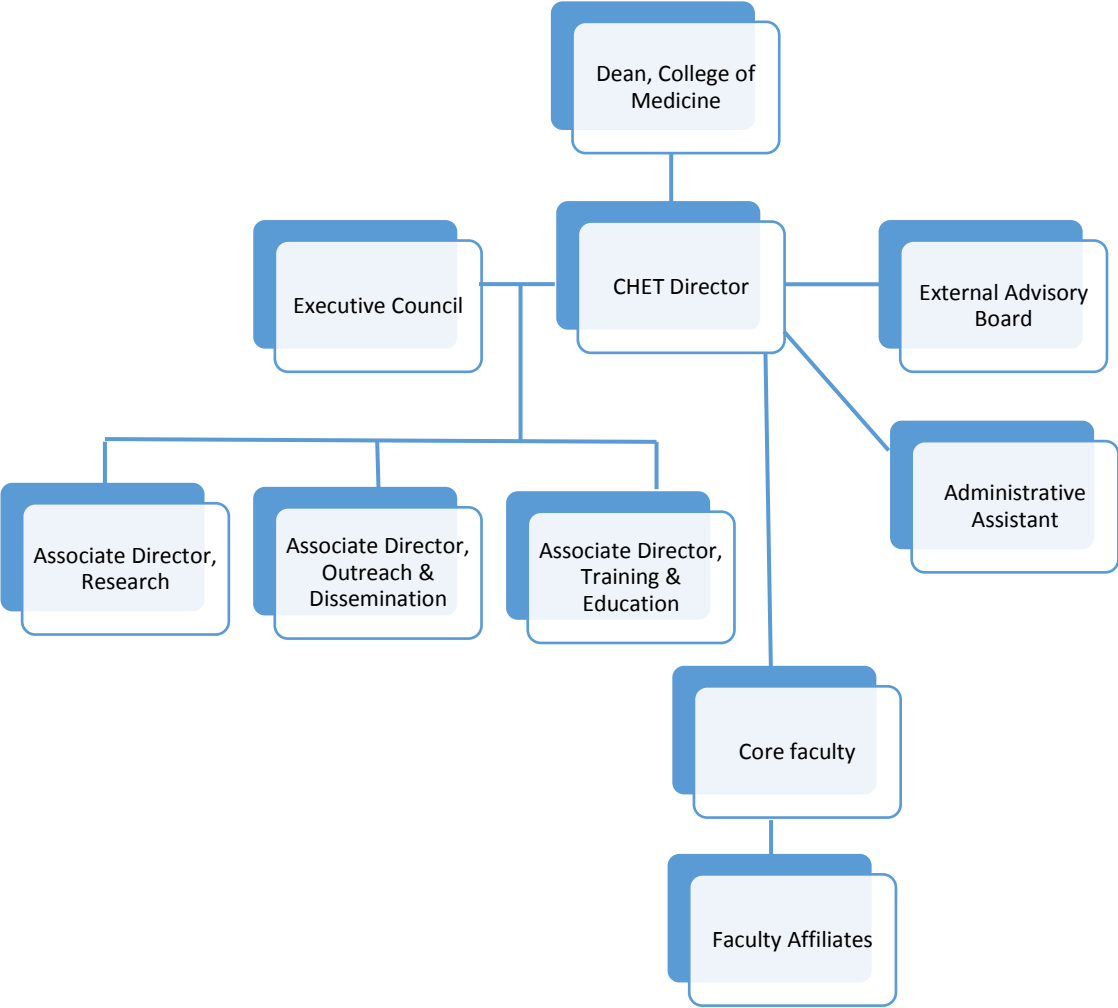
Condition	KY's Ranking in the US
Cancer deaths	50
CVD	43
Diabetes	45
Premature death	44
Poor mental health days	47
Poor physical health days	48
overall	47

In 13 counties across the U.S., Americans can now expect to die younger than their parents did. And the eight counties with the largest [declines in life expectancy](#) since 1980 are all in the state of Kentucky. (Dwyer-Lindgren, JAMA 2017).

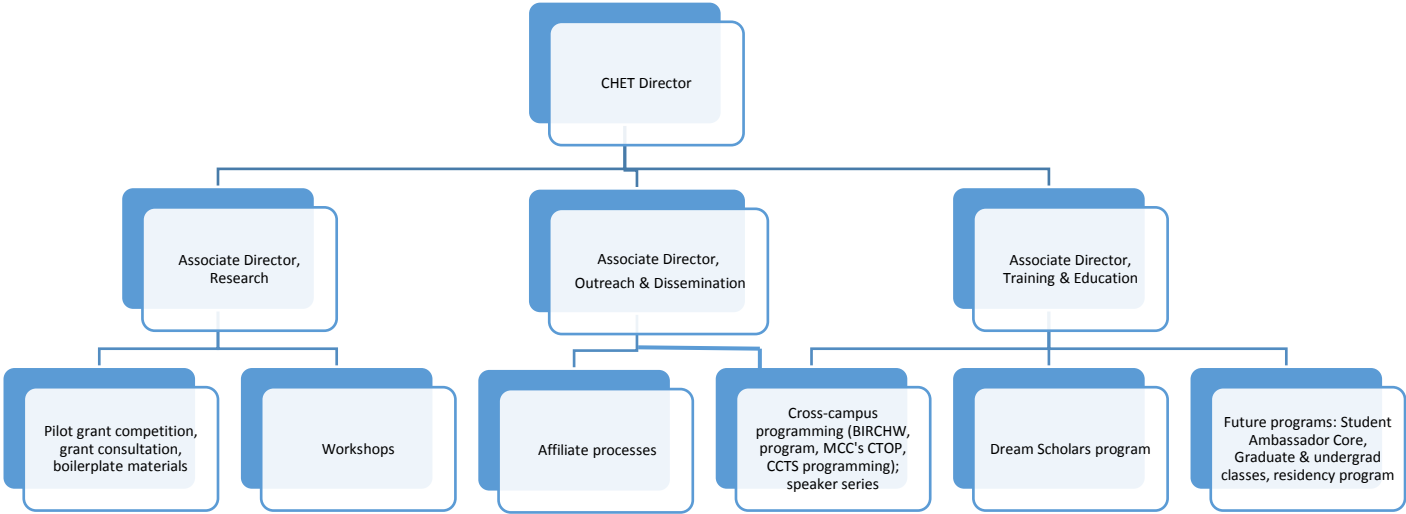
Examples of recent RFAs/FOAs/PAs:

Grant opportunities	#
Centers: NIMHD Specialized Centers of Excellence on Minority Health and Health Disparities (U54), RCMI Research Coordination Network (RRCN) (U54), PCORI Cycle 1 2018 (for Addressing Disparities, Assessment of Options, Communication and Dissemination Research, Improving Healthcare Systems)	RFA-MD-17-005, RFA=MD-18-00
R01/R21: Mechanisms, Models, Measurement, & Management in Pain Research, Health Services Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities, Mechanisms of Disparities in Chronic Liver Diseases and Cancer, Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health, NIH Research Project Grant, Addressing Health Disparities through Effective Interventions Among Immigrant Populations, Understanding Factors in Infancy and Early Childhood (Birth to 24 months) That Influence Obesity Development, Simulation Modeling and Systems Science to Address Health Disparities, Testing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity. Advancing the Science of Geriatric Palliative Care, Mechanisms and Consequences of Sleep Disparities in the U.S., Basic Cancer Research in Cancer Health Disparities	PAR 18-287, PAR 18-286, PAR 18-141, PAR 18-159, PAR 18-017, PAR 18-007, PAR 18-345, PAR 18-344, PAR 18-284, PAR 18-032, PAR 18-331, PAR 18-324, PAR 15-093
Cancer: Cancer Research Education Grants Program to Promote Diversity Research Experiences (R25), Cancer Research Education Grants Program to Promote Diversity - Courses for Skills Development (R25), Comprehensive Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (CPACHE) Feasibility and Planning Studies for Development of Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs) to Investigate Cancer Health Disparities (P20)	PAR-16-138, 139 PAR-18-361. RFA-CA-17-033
Training: Short-term Mentored Career Enhancement Awards for Mid-Career Investigators to Integrate Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences (K18), Research Supplements to Promote Re-Entry into Biomedical and Behavioral Research Careers	PAR-18-349. PAR-17-486, PA-16-289

Center for Health Equity Transformation Organizational Chart



Center for Health Equity Transformation Organizational and Responsibility Chart



Faculty Affiliates across UK Campus (* indicates founding affiliate member)

Name	College
Bastin, Sandra	College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Bennett, Rick	College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Brewer, Dawn	College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
*Davis, Alison	College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Gustafson, Alison	College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Hennig, Bernhard	College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Hustedde, Ronald	College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Pennell, Kelly	College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Rignall, Karen	College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Alcalde, Cristina	College of Arts and Sciences
Anglin, Mary	College of Arts and Sciences
Badour, Christal	College of Arts and Sciences
Brown , Christia	College of Arts and Sciences
Brown, Robyn	College of Arts and Sciences
*Cliggett, Lisa	College of Arts and Sciences
Crampton, Jeremy	College of Arts and Sciences
Goan, Melanie	College of Arts and Sciences
Keller, Peggy	College of Arts and Sciences
Kingsolver, Ann	College of Arts and Sciences
Lorch, Robert	College of Arts and Sciences
Moloney, Mairead	College of Arts and Sciences
Oser, Carrie	College of Arts and Sciences
Renzetti, Claire	College of Arts and Sciences
Segerstrom, Suzanne	College of Arts and Sciences
Shannon, Gary	College of Arts and Sciences
Stromberg, Arnold	College of Arts and Sciences
Wilson, Matthew	College of Arts and Sciences
Zook, Matthew	College of Arts and Sciences
*Ziliak, James	College of Business and Economics
Anyaeunam, Chike	College of Communication and Information
*Harrington, Nancy	College of Communication and Information
Luhan, Greg	College of Design
Ickes, Melinda	College of Education
Erhardht, Gregory	College of Engineering
Segall, Lorna	College of Fine Arts
Yinger, Olivia	College of Fine Arts
Kitzman, Patrick	College of Health Science
Kuperstein, Janice	College of Health Science
Peterson, Charlotte	College of Health Science
Davis, Mary	College of Law
Carvalho, Ana Bastos	College of Medicine
Curry, Thomas	College of Medicine
*Dignan, Mark	College of Medicine
Edwards, Jean	College of Medicine
Feltner, Frances	College of Medicine
*Fernander, Anita	College of Medicine
Havens, Jennifer	College of Medicine
Keck, James	College of Medicine

Knudsen, Hannah	College of Medicine
Li, Jing	College of Medicine
Lofwall, Michelle	College of Medicine
Norton, James	College of Medicine
*Cardarelli, Roberto	College of Medicine
Pearce, Kevin	College of Medicine
Reynolds, Brady	College of Medicine
Rowland, Michael	College of Medicine
*Smalls, Brittany	College of Medicine
Staton, Michele	College of Medicine
Surratt, Hilary	College of Medicine
Swanson, Hollie	College of Medicine
Webb, Nancy	College of Medicine
Williams, Mark	College of Medicine
*Bush, Matt	College of Medicine
Aleshire, Mollie	College of Nursing
*Fallin-Bennett, Amanda	College of Nursing
Linares, Ana Marie	College of Nursing
*Moser, Debra	College of Nursing
Mudd-Martin, Gia	College of Nursing
*Williams, Lovoria	College of Nursing
Dwoskin, Linda	College of Pharmacy
Freeman, Trish	College of Pharmacy
Bardach, Shani	College of Public Health
Bush, Heather	College of Public Health
Cardarelli, Kathryn	College of Public Health
Carman, Angela	College of Public Health
Harp, Kathi	College of Public Health
Hunter, Beth	College of Public Health
Studts, Christina	College of Public Health
Swanson, Mark	College of Public Health
*Vanderpool, Robin	College of Public Health
Williams, Corrine	College of Public Health
Winter, Kathleen	College of Public Health
*Young, April	College of Public Health
Otis, Melanie	College of Social Work
Davis, Frank	Libraries

Otolaryngology

Head & Neck Surgery

University of Kentucky
800 Rose Street, Room C236
Lexington, KY 40536-0293
Appointments: 859-257-5405
Clinic Fax: 859-323-5483
ukhealthcare.uky.edu

March 22, 2018

Robert DiPaola, MD
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Kentucky
800 Rose Street MN150
Lexington KY 40536

RE: Matthew Bush affiliate membership CHET

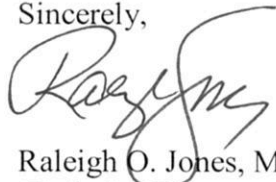
Dear Dean DiPaola:

This letter strongly supports Dr. Matthew Bush's affiliate membership status in the proposed UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). Dr. Bush's participation in CHET will elevate visibility of important health equity research within our department. It is our understanding that Associate Professor Bush's DOE will not be affected by involvement in the Center. As a transdisciplinary research center, CHET has garnered extensive interest in all the colleges for its potential to stimulate research productivity and promote training of the next generation of health equity scholars. Given the state of health in Kentucky, we desperately need the collaborative potential of CHET. CHET will provide synergy across units, encouraging participation in grant applications, student training, and overall scholarly engagement.

Dr. Bush's involvement in CHET as a founding affiliate member will bring new opportunities to the department by activities like engagement in workshops, a speaker's series, pilot funding opportunities, and student training. We understand that Dr. Bush's affiliation will continued to be listed in the Department on publications and grant proposals, although a secondary affiliation with the CHET is encouraged on Center-related publications and grant proposals.

Thank you for fostering this unique and useful Multidisciplinary Research Center. Health equity is a key research area. CHET's goal and strategies to coordinate and catalyze resources to achieve health equity are long overdue and very welcome.

Sincerely,



Raleigh O. Jones, MD
Chair, Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery

March 26, 2018

Dean Robert DiPaola, MD
Vice President, Clinical Academic Affairs
University of Kentucky
College of Medicine
800 Rose Street MN 150
Lexington KY 40536

Dear Dr. DiPaola:

This letter is written to express my enthusiastic support for Dr. Cardarelli to be engaged in cooperative and synergistic activities with the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) as an affiliate member.

Dr. Cardarelli's affiliate participation in CHET will be a benefit not only to the Center and to the College, but also to UK overall. CHET will bring together a critical mass of researchers engaged in health equity scholarship, offering the UK community health equity workshops and scholarly presentations, pilot program opportunities, and rigorous training programs. This focus and accompanying methods do not currently exist together in our College or the UK campus. We are delighted that CHET, a Multidisciplinary Research Center, will serve as a resource for research and training excellence and that the College will be represented in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



James W. Geddes, Ph.D.
Vice Dean of Research, College of Medicine
Professor, Department of Neuroscience

see blue.



College of Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

March 26, 2018

Robert DiPaola, MD
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Kentucky
800 Rose Street MN150
Lexington KY 40536

Dear Dean DiPaola:

This letter lends strong support for Dr. Cliggett's affiliate membership status in the proposed UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). Dr. Cliggett's participation in CHET will elevate visibility of important health equity research within our College. It is our understanding that Professor Cliggett's DOE would not be affected by involvement in the Center. As a transdisciplinary research center, CHET has garnered extensive interest in all colleges for its potential to stimulate research productivity and promote training of the next generation of health equity scholars. Given the state of health in Kentucky, we desperately need the collaborative potential of CHET. CHET will provide synergy across units, encouraging participation in grant applications, student training, and overall scholarly engagement.

Dr. Cliggett's involvement in CHET as a founding affiliate member will bring new opportunities to the College of Arts and Sciences by activities like engagement in workshops, a speaker's series, pilot funding opportunities, and student training. We understand that Dr. Cliggett's affiliation will continued to be listed in the College on publications and grant proposals, although a secondary affiliation with the CHET is encouraged on Center-related publications and grant proposals.

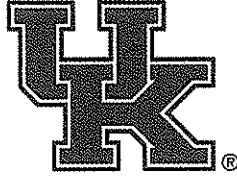
Thank you for fostering this unique and useful Multidisciplinary Research Center. Health equity is a key research area. CHET's goal and strategies to coordinate and catalyze resources to achieve health equity are long overdue and very welcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kornbluh', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mark Lawrence Kornbluh
Dean

see blue.



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food
and Environment
Department of Agricultural Economics
400 Charles E. Barnhart Bldg.
Lexington, KY 40546
P: 859-257-5762
F: 859-323-1913
www.uky.edu

March 21, 2018

Dr. DiPaola, MD
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Kentucky
800 Rose Street MN150
Lexington, KY 40536-0298

Dear Dr. DiPaola:

This letter is written to express my enthusiastic support for Dr. Alison Davis to be engaged in cooperative and synergistic activities with the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) as an affiliate member.

Dr. Davis's affiliate participation in CHET will be a benefit not only to the Center and the department, but also to UK overall. CHET will bring together a critical mass of researchers engaged in health equity scholarship, offering the UK community health equity workshops and scholarly presentations, pilot program opportunities, and rigorous training programs. This focus and accompanying methods do not currently exist together in our department or the UK campus. We are delighted that CHET, a Multidisciplinary Research Center, will serve as a resource for research and training excellence and that the department will be represented in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Barry J. Barnett
Professor and Chair

seeblue.

An Equal Opportunity University



University of Kentucky
College of Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine
Office of the Chairman
900 South Limestone
329 Wethington
Lexington, KY 40536
859-323-5843
fax 859-257-3537

March 14, 2018

Dean Robert DiPaola, MD
Vice President, Clinical Academic Affairs
University of Kentucky College of Medicine
800 Rose Street
Lexington KY 40536

Dear Dean DiPaola:

I would like to express my support for Dr. Dignan to become engaged in the research and training activities of the proposed UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) as a founding affiliate member. The establishment of CHET and Dr. Dignan's involvement in the Center will benefit our department and the University overall. With the tremendous health burdens experienced by Kentuckians and others, such a resources are sorely needed. I understand that CHET will be engaged in critical faculty hires, seminars and workshops on health equity methods and critical topics, a pilot grant competition, and grant consultation.

The Center for Health Equity Transformation offers our university a profound opportunity to improve health through research and training excellence. We are pleased to be a part of this essential Center.

Sincerely,

David J. Moliterno, MD
Jack M. Gill Professor and
Chairman, Department of Internal Medicine



College of Medicine
Department of Behavioral Science
Medical Behavioral Science Building
Lexington, KY 40536-0086

859 323-5771
fax 859 323-5350

www.uky.edu

Dean Robert DiPaola, MD
Vice President, Clinical Academic Affairs
University of Kentucky College of Medicine
800 Rose Street
Lexington KY 40536

March 20, 2018

Dear Dean DiPaola:

I would like to express my support for Dr. Anita Fernander to become engaged in the research and training activities of the proposed UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) as a founding affiliate member. The establishment of CHET and Dr. Fernander's involvement in the Center will benefit our department and the University overall. With the tremendous health burdens experienced by Kentuckians and others, such a resources is sorely needed. I understand that CHET will be engaged in critical faculty hires, seminars and workshops on health equity methods and critical topics, a pilot grant competition, and grant consultation. I also understand that CHET will provide student and postdoctoral training in the area of health equity. These opportunities will help our faculty as well as our students.

The Center for Health Equity Transformation offers our university a profound opportunity to improve health through research and training excellence. We are pleased to be a part of this essential Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carl Leukefeld'.

Carl Leukefeld, PhD
Chair, Department of Behavioral Science



University of Kentucky
College of Communication
and Information

Office of the Dean

308 Lucille Little Library
Lexington, KY 40506-0224

O: 859-218-0290

F: 859-323-4171

ci.uky.edu

March 14, 2018

Robert DiPaola, MD
Dean, University of Kentucky College of Medicine

Dear Dean DiPaola:

This letter lends strong support for Dr. Harrington's affiliate membership status in the proposed UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). Dr. Harrington's participation in CHET will elevate visibility of important health equity research within our College. It is our understanding that Professor Harrington's DOE would not be affected by involvement in the Center. As a transdisciplinary research center, CHET has garnered extensive interest in all colleges for its potential to stimulate research productivity and promote training of the next generation of health equity scholars. Given the state of health in Kentucky, we desperately need the collaborative potential of CHET. CHET will provide synergy across units, encouraging participation in grant applications, student training, and overall scholarly engagement.

Dr. Harrington's involvement in CHET as a founding affiliate member will bring new opportunities to the College of Communication and Information by activities like engagement in workshops, a speaker's series, pilot funding opportunities, and student training. We understand that Dr. Harrington's affiliation will continued to be listed in the Department on publications and grant proposals, although a secondary affiliation with the CHET is encouraged on Center-related publications and grant proposals.

Thank you for fostering this unique and useful Multidisciplinary Research Center. Health equity is a key research area. CHET's goal and strategies to coordinate and catalyze resources to achieve health equity are long overdue and very welcome.

Sincerely,

H. Dan O'Hair

H. Dan O'Hair
Dean and Professor

seeblue.

An Equal Opportunity University



March 23, 2018

Dean Robert DiPaola, MD
Vice President, Clinical Academic Affairs
University of Kentucky College of Medicine
800 Rose Street
Lexington KY 40536

College of Nursing
Office of the Dean
UK Medical Center
315 College of Nursing Bldg.
Lexington, KY 40536-0232
859 323-6533
fax 859 323-1057
www.uknursing.uky.edu

Dear Dean DiPaola:

I would like to express my support for Drs. Debra Moser, Amanda Fallin-Bennett, and Lovoria Williams to become engaged in the research and training activities of the proposed UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) as a founding affiliate member. The establishment of CHET and Drs. Moser, Fallin-Bennett, and Williams' involvement in the Center will benefit our College and the University overall. With the tremendous health burdens experienced by Kentuckians and others, such a resource is sorely needed. I understand that CHET will be engaged in critical faculty hires, seminars and workshops on health equity methods and critical topics, a pilot grant competition, and grant consultation. I also understand that CHET will provide student and postdoctoral training in the area of health equity. These opportunities will help our faculty as well as our students.

The Center for Health Equity Transformation offers our university a profound opportunity to improve health through research and training excellence. We are pleased to be a part of this essential Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Janie Heath'.

Janie Heath, PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN
Dean and Warwick Professor of Nursing

cc: Dr. Tom Kelly, Associate Dean for Research
Dr. Debra Moser
Dr. Amanda Fallin-Bennett
Dr. Lovoria Williams

March 24, 2018

Robert DiPaola, MD
Dean, University of Kentucky College of Medicine

Dear Dean DiPaola:

I strongly support Dr. Brittany Smalls' affiliate membership status in the proposed UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). Dr. Smalls' participation in CHET will elevate visibility of important health equity research within our Center of Health Services Research. It is our understanding that Assistant Professor Smalls' DOE would not be affected by involvement in the Center. As a transdisciplinary research center, CHET has garnered extensive interest in all colleges for its potential to stimulate research productivity and promote training of the next generation of health equity scholars. Given the state of health in Kentucky, we desperately need the collaborative potential of CHET especially with the Center for Health Services Research (CHSR). CHET will provide synergy across units, encouraging participation in grant applications, student training, and overall scholarly engagement.

Dr. Smalls' involvement in CHET as a founding affiliate member will bring new opportunities to the CHSR through activities like engagement in workshops, a speaker's series, pilot funding opportunities, and student training. We understand that Dr. Smalls' affiliation will continued to be listed in the Center of Health Services Research on publications and grant proposals, although a secondary affiliation with the CHET is encouraged on CHET-related publications and grant proposals.

Thank you for fostering this unique and useful Transdisciplinary Research Center. Health equity is a key research area, especially in the broad field of health services research. CHET's goal and strategies to coordinate and catalyze resources to achieve health equity are long overdue and welcomed!

Sincerely,



Mark V. Williams, MD
Director, Center for Health Services Research
Professor and Vice-Chair, Department of Internal Medicine
Chief Transformation and Learning Officer, UK HealthCare



University of Kentucky
College of Public Health

Bowman Hall 346

Lexington, KY 40506

P: 859-257-2471

www.uky.edu

Dean Robert DiPaola, MD
Vice President, Clinical Academic Affairs
University of Kentucky College of Medicine
800 Rose Street
Lexington KY 40536

March 15, 2018

Dear Dean DiPaola:

I would like to express my support for Dr. Vanderpool to become engaged in the research and training activities of the proposed UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) as a founding affiliate member. The establishment of CHET and Dr. Vanderpool's involvement in the Center will benefit our department and the University overall. With the tremendous health burdens experienced by Kentuckians and others, such a resources is sorely needed. I understand that CHET will be engaged in critical faculty hires, seminars and workshops on health equity methods and critical topics, a pilot grant competition, and grant consultation. I also understand that CHET will provide student and postdoctoral training in the area of health equity. These opportunities will help our faculty as well as our students.

The Center for Health Equity Transformation offers our university a profound opportunity to improve health through research and training excellence. We are pleased to be a part of this essential Center.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Cardarelli, Ph.D.
Interim Chair
Department of Health, Behavior & Society
College of Public Health
University of Kentucky

see blue.

An Equal Opportunity University

Department of Epidemiology
111 Washington Ave., Suite 213
Lexington KY 40536-0003
(859) 218-2330 phone
(859) 257-8811 fax
<http://www.uky.edu/PublicHealth>

21 March 2018

Robert DiPaola, MD
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Kentucky
800 Rose Street
Lexington KY 40536


March 21, 2018

Dear Dr. DiPaola:

This letter is written to express my enthusiastic support for Dr. April Young to be engaged in cooperative and synergistic activities with the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) as an affiliate member.

Dr. Young's affiliate participation in CHET will be a benefit not only to the Center and to the department, but also to UK overall. CHET will bring together a critical mass of researchers engaged in health equity scholarship, offering the UK community health equity workshops and scholarly presentations, pilot program opportunities, and rigorous training programs. This focus and accompanying methods do not currently exist together in our College or the UK campus. We are delighted that CHET, a Multidisciplinary Research Center, will serve as a resource for research and training excellence and that the department will be represented in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Steven T. Fleming, PhD
Professor and Interim Chair
Department of Epidemiology

Dr. DiPaola, MD
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0084

March 14, 2018

Dear Dr. DiPaola:

This letter is written to express my enthusiastic support for Dr. Ziliak to be engaged in cooperative and synergistic activities with the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) as an affiliate member.

Dr. Ziliak's affiliate participation in CHET will be a benefit not only to the Center and Gatton College of Business and Economics, but also to UK overall. CHET will bring together a critical mass of researchers engaged in health equity scholarship, offering the UK community health equity workshops and scholarly presentations, pilot program opportunities, and rigorous training programs. This focus and accompanying methods do not currently exist together in our College or the UK campus. We are delighted that CHET, a Multidisciplinary Research Center, will serve as a resource for research and training excellence and that the College will be represented in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



DN: cn=Steve Skinner, o, ou,
email=steve.skinner@uky.edu, c=US
Date: 2018.03.14 14:04:22 -04'00'

Steven J. Skinner

cc: Jim Ziliak, PhD



March 17, 2017

Nancy Schoenberg, Ph.D.
Marion Pearsall Professor of Behavioral Science, College of Medicine
Associated Dean for Research, College of Public Health
University of Kentucky

College of Public Health
Office of the Dean
111 Washington Avenue, Suite 212
Lexington, KY 40536-0003

859 218-3795
fax 859 323-5698

www.uky.edu/publichealth

Dear Nancy:

As Dean of the University of Kentucky's College of Public Health, I strongly support your efforts to develop a Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). We have discussed your plans to develop a network of research and training activities that aim to address the tremendous burden of health disparities experienced by Kentuckians and others. Such an effort is much needed. Your three core services—research design, technology-mediated interventions to improve health, and community outreach—are needed by researchers and students at the University of Kentucky. Your intention of offering workshops, seed grants, lectures, and a host of training opportunities would be helpful to many of the students and faculty in the College of Public Health.

With interest from across campus, the CHET would serve a key function within UK of bringing together scholars with an interest in addressing health equity. Your many collaborations across UK insure that CHET will be a multidisciplinary, dynamic environment where robust research and training take place. We have spoken about extramural training grants and other collective efforts that would enrich training and research opportunities and complement our activities. CHET's training component includes pre- and postdoctoral scholars and junior faculty members who would attend workshops, intensive professional trainings, and even enter a pipeline to increasing hiring for underrepresented faculty.

We at the College of Public Health strongly endorse your vision for the development of the Center for Health Equity Transformation at the University of Kentucky and look forward to future collaborations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna K. Arnett".

Donna Arnett, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Public Health
University of Kentucky



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

D r e a m • C h a l l e n g e • S u c c e e d

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

March 27, 2017

Nancy E. Schoenberg, Ph.D.
Marion Pearsall Professor of Behavioral Science, College of Medicine
Associate Dean for Research, College of Public Health
University of Kentucky
Lexington KY 40536-0086

Dear Nancy,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of your Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). As we have discussed, CHET aligns extremely well with our NIH supported Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) Program, which is targeted at supporting junior faculty as they explore various aspects of women's health. The BIRCWH program was originally funded in 2000 and was the first K type training program on the UK campus.

The goal of the BIRCWH aligns with the overall goals of CHET in that the BIRCWH currently strives to: 1) foster a community of diverse scholars with an interest in women's health research, 2) facilitate academic enrichment through bimonthly research presentations, grant writing workshops, lectures, etc., and 3) offers technical and professional assistance through workshops with the proposal development office, the IRB, sponsored projects accounting etc.

Important for the synergy of the BIRCWH with CHET, we have worked together closely through your role as a mentor for the BIRCWH program. As such, you have been extremely involved in the development of the scholars' research programs as well as their scientific and professional development. Currently, you serve as a primary mentor for one of our scholars, Mairead Moloney in Sociology, and are a member of the mentoring team for another scholar, Amanda Fallin-Bennett in Nursing. Thus, the blending of the BIRCWH within CHET is a logical progression for our program.

I look forward to working with you and the members of CHET as this Center develops. I wish you the best of luck.

Sincerely,

Thomas Curry, Ph.D.
Professor, Vice Chair for Research
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of Kentucky



B. Mark Evers, MD
Director, Markey Cancer Center
Professor and Vice-Chair for Research,
Department of Surgery
Markey Cancer Foundation Endowed Chair
Physician-in-chief, Oncology Service Line
mark.evers@uky.edu

University of Kentucky
Markey Cancer Center
800 Rose Street
CC140 Ben F. Roach Building
Lexington, KY 40536-0093
859/323-6556
859/323-2074 Fax

March 12, 2018

Robert DiPaola, MD
Dean, College of Medicine
Vice President of Clinical Academic Affairs, UK HealthCare
800 Rose Street
MN 150

Dear Dean DiPaola:

As Director of the University of Kentucky's Markey Cancer Center, I am pleased to lend support to the proposed Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). CHET's vision for promoting health equity in the Commonwealth and beyond closely aligns with our mission to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality. As a state with the highest rates of cancer, we are committed to engaging in research and training that addresses such inequities. The Markey Cancer Center supports CHET's efforts by contributing resources for several faculty positions over the next five years. Earlier this week, the Markey Cancer Center Directors unanimously endorsed the Center for Health Equity Transformation.

CHET's vision for strong research productivity and a robust training component that includes cancer control and prevention-focused faculty members and postdoctoral scholars converges closely with the goals of Markey Cancer Center. Additionally, CHET includes elements that would greatly enhance the current UK research culture, including workshops, seed grant competitions, collaborative programming, and visiting lecturers. Researchers at Markey Cancer Center would be enriched by CHET collaborating with new faculty, attending proposed programming and competing for seed grants and training positions. Without a doubt, a great university needs a Center like CHET and we at MCC would be delighted to be involved and lend support to this important Center for Health Equity Transformation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'B. Mark Evers'.

B. Mark Evers, M.D.



HealthCare
MARKEY CANCER CENTER



A Cancer Center Designated by the
National Cancer Institute

B. Mark Evers, MD
Director, Markey Cancer Center
Professor and Vice-Chair for Research,
Department of Surgery
Markey Cancer Foundation Endowed Chair
Physician-in-chief, Oncology Service Line
mark.evers@uky.edu

University of Kentucky
Markey Cancer Center
800 Rose Street
CC140 Ben F. Roach Building
Lexington, KY 40536-0093
859/323-6556
859/323-2074 Fax

March 14, 2018

Dear Dr. Schoenberg,

On behalf of the Markey Cancer Center (MCC), I relay our enthusiastic support for the UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). Thank you for presenting your vision for the center to the MCC Director's Council, the governing body of the MCC, on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

The Director's Council unanimously supports the center and we envision many synergistic interactions whereby we can work together to address cancer-related health equity issues in Kentucky and beyond. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

B. Mark Evers, MD



University of Kentucky
Office of the Vice President
for Institutional Diversity

311 Main Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0032
P: 859-257-9293
F: 859-323-2800
www.uky.edu/diversity

March 18, 2018

Dean Robert DiPaola
University of Kentucky College of Medicine

Dear Dean DiPaola:

This letter offers strong support for the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET), a Multidisciplinary Research Center. The proposed activities of CHET closely align with numerous goals and strategies at the University of Kentucky to leverage research and training successes to enhance the lives of Kentuckians and others. Additionally, as described below, CHET offers an opportunity to improve diversity and inclusion at UK through excellence in research and education.

The proposed Center is vital to the mission of our land grant institution, given the numerous health challenges faced by residents of the Commonwealth and beyond. The extensive support for CHET from across the university demonstrates the need for a central, catalyzing Center that focuses on health equity research. The proposed programming—bringing in speakers and directors of other Centers, developing productive research programs, embedding meaningful training programs into the Center, and providing assistance with research proposals- will catalyze health equity activities.

As the Vice President for Diversity at the University of Kentucky, I believe that CHET offers a new opportunity to increase faculty and student diversity. Scholars from traditionally underrepresented groups will find a home at CHET; knowing that the university supports such a vital unit sends a very compelling message. Beyond its existence and dynamic programming, CHET will develop applications to support workforce pipeline enrichment. Providing opportunities to acquire the tools and professional networks to launch a career in health equity research is another goal of the Center, and one that will go a long way in improving UK's climate.

It is clear that the University of Kentucky's faculty and students will benefit from CHET, as will the national reputation of UK. For those of us committed to enhancing opportunities for all, the proposed Center for Health Equity Transformation will be a key resource. Thank you for your support of this important Center.

Sincerely yours,

Sonja Feist-Price, Ph.D.
Vice President, Institutional Diversity
University of Kentucky

see blue.

An Equal Opportunity University

March 23, 2017

Nancy E. Schoenberg, Ph.D.
Marion Pearsall Professor of Behavioral Science, College of Medicine
Associate Dean for Research, College of Public Health
University of Kentucky
Lexington KY USA 40536-0086

Dear Dr. Schoenberg,

I would like to express our organizational support for your proposed application to develop a Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET).

The University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health (UK CERH) was established in 1990 to improve the health of rural Kentuckians through education, research, service and community engagement. The UK CERH seeks to find solutions to the area's chronic shortage of health professionals and residents' poor health status.

As Director of the UK CERH, I have dedicated my career to identifying methods to improve the array of health challenges that have affected rural populations for decades. Our population suffers from high rates of unemployment, a shortage of healthcare professionals and barriers to healthcare access, as many are unable to afford healthcare, find transportation or obtain medical services. These barriers have a dramatic impact on the population we serve making the issue of health equity ever so important.

At the UK CERH, much of our research focuses on improving health disparities and overcoming barriers to access to quality care. The UK CERH has established many community relationships and collaborated with researchers on numerous projects. Some of our community-based programs and collaborations include Kentucky Homeplace, a community health worker (CHW) program that provides access to medical, social, and environmental services for the citizens of the Commonwealth; Connecting Kids to Coverage, a CHW project designed to connect children and their parents who are uninsured with insurance coverage options; and Kentucky Care Coordination for Community Transitions (KC3T), a program which utilizes a patient navigator who helps individuals who have had a stroke, TIA, or other neurological condition and their caregivers successfully transition back into their community.

While the issue of health equity has gained some momentum, much remains to be accomplished to help individuals attain quality care needed to improve their health and quality of life. I welcome the collaboration of researchers committed to engaging our communities to work together to improve health outcomes.

Sincerely,



Frances J. Feltner, DNP, MSN, RN, FAAN
Director, UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health

see blue.

March 21, 2018

Robert DiPaola, MD
Dean, University of Kentucky, College of Medicine

Dear Dean DiPaola:

As Director of the Barnstable Brown Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center in the University of Kentucky's College of Medicine, it gives me pleasure to support the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). CHET will be a multidisciplinary, dynamic environment where robust research and training take place. CHET would greatly enhance research opportunities on campus through a seed grant competition, grant review, provision of boilerplate materials, and enriching activities like visiting scholars. Given the importance of these activities, it is no surprise that CHET has secured the interest of nearly 100 faculty members from across the UK campus.

CHET's training component includes pre-and postdoctoral scholars and junior faculty members who would attend workshops, intensive professional trainings, and even enter a pipeline to increasing hiring for underrepresented faculty. I anticipate the opportunities to enrich investigators and to recruit new and talented underrepresented faculty will expand significantly.

I strongly endorse CHET and my colleagues and I look forward to additional involvement with Dr. Schoenberg and the talented faculty associated with the Center for Health Equity Transformation.

Sincerely yours,



John Fowlkes, MD
Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine and Pharmacology, and Nutritional Science
Director, Barnstable Brown Kentucky Diabetes Center
University of Kentucky College of Medicine
UK Healthcare



Center for Clinical and Translational Science

UK Chandler Medical Center, Pavilion H Room C300
800 Rose Street, Lexington, KY 40536-0293
859-323-2615

Dean Robert DiPaola
College of Medicine
Vice President for Clinical Academic Affairs

March 15, 2018

Dear Dean DiPaola:

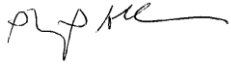
The Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences is pleased to support the UK *Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET)* as a Multidisciplinary Research Center. CHET, whose primary mission is to build and enhance innovative, high quality, transdisciplinary and impactful research and training designed to improve the health of the most vulnerable residents of Kentucky and beyond, is complimentary to the mission of CCTS. One important component of the CTSA program is “Integrated Special Populations”, whose primary goal is the promotion of diversity both in the translational research workforce, and in the population of patients and participants who are part of research studies. Clearly, both CCTS and CHET are highly motivated to provide high quality research and training to improve the lives of Kentuckians and beyond, and to have a lasting impact on diversity in our research efforts.

There are many ways in which CHET and CCTS will work together, and Dr. Schoenberg and I have a long history of collaborative efforts. Given our mutual interests in improving research by offering enhanced training, the proposed director of CHET, Dr. Nancy Schoenberg, and I have agreed to partner with the College of Nursing to continue and expand the DREAM Scholars Program. This program was originally developed by Dr. Jenna Hatcher, and will now be led by Drs. Lovoria Williams and Amanda Fallin-Bennett, both in the College of Nursing. The DREAM Scholars Program seeks to enhance research training among underrepresented minority groups as well as others interested in underserved populations. The CCTS will provide foundational support to the Program, along with some support for Drs. Williams and Fallin-Bennett, along with support for DREAM scholars. CHET will provide additional mentoring, guidance and will help establish this program as a driving force for health equity research and mentorship at UK.

There are many other ways in which CHET and CCTS can partner, and another logical partnership would be with pilot grants. CCTS organizes peer-review for many other pilot programs on campus and would be happy to help CHET with its pilot program.

Overall, CCTS is enthusiastic about this partnership with CHET and we look forward to this mutually advantageous arrangement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. A. Kern".

Philip A. Kern, MD
Professor of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology
Director, Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences
Associate Provost for Clinical and Translational Science



College of Medicine
Department of Behavioral Science
Medical Behavioral Science Building
Lexington, KY 40536-0086
859 323-5771
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March 16, 2018

Dear Nancy:

Congratulations on developing the UK Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). As you know all too well, our state leads the nation in cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity, substance abuse, and diabetes, among many other problems. CHET is poised to bring together people and resources catalyze innovative research and training activities that can reduce the burden of such inequalities in the Commonwealth. CHET, which will be a key resource in attracting talented and diverse faculty to UK, will benefit from your strong track record of mentorship and training of junior faculty and graduate students and robust research portfolio.

CHET has garnered interest from across the university, including all of sixteen Colleges and all of the key Centers appropriate to health equity. It is clear that faculty and their students are excited about the opportunities to be involved in what the Center has to offer—research consultation, special events, health equity methods workshops, etc.. This will be a transdisciplinary Center that spurs on impactful research consistent with President Capilouto's vision of "making death a beggar" in the future. A Center that takes the lead on such efforts has the capacity to promote team science, increase funding, encourage innovative research, training the next generation of scholars, and improve health overall.

With the approval of our faculty members, the Department of Behavioral Science would be pleased to serve as an academic home for the faculty members CHET recruits. We will work with you to insure administrative support for appointment, promotion, and tenure, grant submission, and any other standard practice for an academic home department.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carl Leukefeld".

Carl Leukefeld, PhD.

Chair, Department of Behavioral Science



March 25, 2018

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology
1515 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington, KY 40506-0027
Ph 859-257-6890

Dear Dr. Nancy Schoenberg,

I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of the proposal to establish the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) at the University of Kentucky (UK). This multidisciplinary research center is unique in its focus on improving the health of underserved populations (e.g., rural residents, racial/ethnic minorities, and low-income individuals). The establishment of CHET is critical as the Kentucky ranks 47th in overall health. This ranking is driven by high prevalence rates of cancer, obesity, diabetes, and drug dependence, which are health issues that disproportionately affect underserved populations. CHET puts UK on-par with benchmark institutions which have established health equity/health disparities centers and increases our ability to compete with these benchmarks for extramural funding on health disparities. In addition, CHET provides an opportunity to promote both student and faculty diversity and inclusion across campus as well as improve retention.

CHET will thrive under your leadership, based on your impressive administrative experience, successful track record of multidisciplinary scholarship, and strong extramural funding portfolio. I look forward to joining CHET's leadership team as the Associate Director of Outreach. My credentials, expertise, and enthusiasm provide a sound foundation for serving in this position. I am Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Sociology. Within the College of Arts & Sciences, I devised, implemented, and fostered the growth of the Health, Society, & Populations (HSP) undergraduate program as the inaugural Co-Director. My research focuses on drug misuse, HIV risk behaviors/interventions, and health service utilization among underserved populations. I have maintained an active National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) supported research portfolio resulting in between 75-100% supported effort in my 14 years at UK. I have led five projects totaling more than \$4.3 million as PI and served as a Co-I or mentor on other awards totaling more than \$26.5 million. I have published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, and my scholarly work has been featured in venues such as *NIDA Notes*, newspapers/NPR, and websites targeting the general public. Pending A&S Dean Kornbluh's approval, I will devote 20% effort to CHET as the Associate Director to promote and lead multidisciplinary collaborations with colleges and units across campus. In this capacity, I will be developing and administering the CHET faculty affiliation process, organizing cross-campus programming surround health equity topics, and establishing a CHET speaker series that caters to scholars across basic, clinical, and social science departments.

As a native Kentuckian as well as an alumna of UK, I am committed to UK's mission as a land-grant university to improve the lives of Kentuckians through excellent education, research, and service. I believe CHET makes a needed and substantial contribution towards this mission of improving the health and well-being of Kentuckians. I look forward to collaborating with you and it has been invigorating to consider the ways that I may contribute to the growth of CHET.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carrie Oser'.

Carrie Oser, PhD
Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Sociology



Susan S. Smyth, MD, PhD
Jeff Gill Professor of Cardiology

**Chief | Division of
Cardiovascular Medicine**

**Director | Gill Heart &
Vascular Institute**

Director | MD/PhD Program

University of Kentucky
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Phone: (859) 218-0121
Fax: (859) 257-6060
www.ukhealthcare.uky.edu/gill/

Attending Physician, Cardiology
Lexington VA Medical Center

March 15, 2018

Dr. Robert DiPaola
Dean, University of Kentucky College of Medicine
800 Rose Street
MN150

Dear Dean DiPaola:

We at the Gill Heart & Vascular Institute are pleased to support the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). As Division Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine, Director of the Gill Heart & Vascular Institute, and Director of the MD/PhD Program, it is very clear to me that CHET has a well-considered strategy to promote rigorous training and research that can reduce such health disparities. We will not only use CHET, but the vision for addressing health equity will benefit UK overall. The University of Kentucky should emulate other respected research universities and Centers that bring together scholars and trainees to promote excellence in health equity research.

The research activities of CHET include an important mixture of seed grant opportunities, visiting national scholars, and new faculty and student positions. The services that CHET will offer for grant review and boilerplate information about health disparities will be a valuable new resource to support additional extramural funding in this important area. Another critical function of CHET pertains to improving faculty diversity. By leveraging graduate students and postdoctoral trainees from traditionally underrepresented groups to become faculty members, we may be able to retain extremely talented investigators. When trainees feel supported and welcome, they will want to stay at UK, thereby increasing our talented and diverse faculty pool. The Dream Scholars Program in CHET provides group and individual consultation, professional socialization workshops and other enrichment opportunities. I look forward to working closely with Dr. Schoenberg and CHET.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Smyth', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D.
Jeff Gill Professor of Cardiology
Chief | Division of Cardiovascular Medicine
Director | Gill Heart Institute
Director | MD/PhD Program

March 21, 2018

Dr. Robert DiPaola
Dean of the College of Medicine
University of Kentucky

Dear Dr. DiPaola:

As Director of the University of Kentucky's Center on Drug and Alcohol Research, I am keenly aware of the toll that substance abuse and other conditions take on the lives of Kentucky's most vulnerable residents. I, therefore, am very supportive of efforts to bring together campus and community talents and resources through the development of the Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET). UK would benefit from a coordinated effort around training and research in health inequities, CHET has obtained the support and interest of dozens of colleagues around the campus, positioning the Center to serve as a key research and training resource. I was supportive of this plan when the original proposal was submitted to the Vice President for Research Center competition, and I remain so.

There are several particularly innovative and useful components to CHET. First, the Center will assist researchers in developing key needed background material for grants and other scholarly products—helping with data to present a compelling case. Second, CHET will offer workshops on novel methods, seed grant funding, and visiting lectures. These efforts will be particularly useful to the numerous trainees involved in the Center. Additionally, CHET will offer the Dream Scholars Program, with a cohort of trainees from underrepresented groups. Our faculty and students at the CDAR would benefit from and appreciate opportunities to engage with Center for Health Equity Transformation. I also have enjoyed a very collegial and warm relationship with Dr. Nancy Schoenberg for many years, and I believe that she will provide outstanding leadership. I very much look forward to seeing this Center develop and to collaboration with CHET faculty on research of mutual research to our faculty in CDAR. I offer my support to Dr. Schoenberg in any capacity to ensure the success of CHET.

Sincerely,



Sharon L. Walsh, Ph.D.

Director, Center on Drug and Alcohol Research



College of Medicine
Department of Pharmacology & Nutritional Sciences
Division of Nutritional Sciences
Nancy R. Webb, PhD, Professor, Director
535 Charles T. Wethington Building
Lexington, KY 40536-0200
Phone: 859-323-4933 | Fax: 859-257-3646

Nancy E. Schoenberg, Ph.D.
Marion Pearsall Professor of Behavioral Science, College of Medicine
Associate Dean for Research, College of Public Health
University of Kentucky
Lexington KY USA 40536-0086

RE: Proposed Center for Health Equity Transformation

March 23, 2017

Dear Nancy,

Thank you for the invitation to serve as an affiliate member of your proposed *Center for Health Equity Transformation* (CHET). We are both aware that the Appalachian region of Kentucky ranks in the top 1% of the nation in the prevalence of obesity and obesity-associated conditions (diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemias, cardiovascular disease and cancer). Clearly, we must strive to do a better job translating basic discoveries to the community if we are to positively impact the health of our citizens. I am excited about your proposal to establish a Community Engagement and Outreach Core that will connect researchers to vulnerable populations and underserved communities and thus bridge the gap between basic and community level scientists. I am also very enthusiastic about your plan to provide training opportunities for graduate students interested in gaining experience related to health equity research. As Director of the Nutritional Sciences Division in the Department of Pharmacology and Nutritional Sciences, I interface with more than 50 affiliated faculty members from 16 different departments and 6 colleges across UK's campus who are involved in nutrition research. I also oversee PhD and Masters' programs in Nutritional Sciences and direct a T32 training grant focused on nutrition and metabolic disease. I fully support the goals of the CHET and look forward to working with you in promoting interactions between CHET and UK faculty and trainees carrying out basic and translational research in the area of nutrition/obesity/diabetes.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Webb'.

Nancy R. Webb, PhD
Professor, Pharmacology & Nutritional Sciences
Director, Division of Nutritional Sciences