



DATE: October 28, 2013

TO: Faculty with Interest in the Future OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

FROM: Jeanette Mladenovic, MD, MBA, MACP, OHSU Executive Vice President and Provost
Sona Karentz Andrews, PhD, PSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Future OHSU-PSU School of Public Health Update/Invitation to Become Involved

Following is an update on planning for the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health (SPH) and a special invitation to participate in the next phase of SPH development. Please pass this memo along to interested colleagues. The SPH Steering Committee, which meets bi-monthly and includes OHSU and PSU faculty, has made substantial progress in foundational planning, including the following: developing the SPH's vision, goals, and principles; planning for doctoral programs in Epidemiology, Community Health, and Health Systems and Policy; and identifying cross-institution partnership strategies to ensure the new SPH provides integrated, consistent, and high quality experiences for students and faculty. We have been attentive to creating a school that will align our strengths and the needs of the region, and that will meet the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) requirements for accreditation (<http://ceph.org/>). The SPH goals, vision, mission, and competencies are available at www.ohsu.edu/ohsu-psu-publichealth.

Next Phase of SPH Development

The SPH will offer an MPH in five areas (biostatistics, epidemiology, health management and policy, health promotion, and environmental systems and human health) – either continuing or adapting an existing track in the Oregon MPH (OMPH) or creating a new program track. We have developed three PhD program proposals that are undergoing final approval (Epidemiology at OHSU, Community Health at PSU, and Health Systems and Policy at PSU), and we expect to recruit students into these programs for fall 2014.

We have reached the stage in SPH planning that would benefit from involvement of faculty beyond those on the Steering Committee. Our work in the coming months will focus on the following three inter-related areas, building upon the strong foundations of the existing OMPH program:

- **Competencies.** Review existing competencies for all of the specialty areas, identify gaps based upon the SPH mission and goals and, as necessary, craft revised competencies.
- **Curriculum.** Review existing curricula in the specialty areas and identify opportunities for enhancement based upon the SPH mission and goals, including required number of course offerings per year and options for teaching venues (in-person or online) in order to determine the composition of the required faculty and the frequency of teaching of all courses.
- **Faculty.** Based on specialty/discipline competencies and curriculum, identify parameters for highly qualified faculty to engage in the educational mission of the SPH, and strategies for faculty identification and selection.

Work Groups are being established in each specialty/discipline area, as well as for the core SPH curriculum and for practice. Each Work Group will include faculty members with content matter expertise, knowledge of CEPH accreditation requirements, and previous experience in developing OMPH competencies and curriculum. As listed below, the Work Groups will be facilitated by members of the SPH Steering Committee to ensure coordinated communication and planning:

- Epidemiology, facilitator Elena Andresen – andreee@ohsu.edu

- Biostatistics, facilitator Carlos Crespo – ccrespo@pdx.edu
- Community Health Sciences (including Health Promotion and Health Behavior), facilitators Liana Winett and Laurie Powers – lwinett@pdx.edu, powersl@pdx.edu
- Health Management and Policy, facilitator Sherril Gelmon – gelmons@pdx.edu
- Environmental Systems and Human Health, facilitator Tom Becker – beckert@ohsu.edu
- Core Curriculum, facilitator Veronica Dujon – dujonv@pdx.edu
- Public Health Practice, facilitator Katherine Bradley – bradleyk@ohsu.edu

Liana Winett, Interim Director of the OMPH, will be available as a consultant to the Work Groups.

If you have questions or wish to provide feedback to one or more of these Work Groups, please contact the relevant Work Group facilitator(s). The first agenda items for all of the Work Groups are to review competencies and initial curriculum mapping. Work Groups will complete their activities in the three planning areas within approximately eight weeks. We recognize that many OMPH faculty members are giving substantial time to the OMPH accreditation site visit in October. However, we need to move forward with SPH planning to ensure we have the required information for the spring 2014 Oregon legislative session.

Expanded SPH Affinity Groups will be convened to provide additional opportunities for faculty members who are not participating in Work Groups to learn about, and provide feedback on, continued SPH planning. Affinity Group meetings will be announced and participation will be open to all interested OHSU and PSU faculty who wish to give feedback on draft plans. Affinity Groups will be facilitated by the Work Group facilitators and members.

Once this facet of planning is completed, an upcoming phase will focus on the SPH's research mission and activities. We are excited that SPH planning has reached this pivotal point, and we encourage OHSU and PSU faculty to participate in shaping the focus and organization of our future School of Public Health.