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To: [Doubeni, Chyke](#); chyke.doubeni@osumc.edu
Cc: [Leite, Fabio](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Bradford, Carol](#); [Gilliam, Melissa](#); [Mohler, Peter](#); [Anderson, Jay - Night Pharmacist](#); john.warner@osumc.edu; [Clinchot, Dan](#); [Malone, Helen](#)
Subject: Proposal to have provisional University Center status for the Center for Healthcare Equity
Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023 1:30:55 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Chyke:

The proposal from the OSU Wexner Medicine Center to have provisional University Center status for the Center for Healthcare Equity was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on October 18, 2023. I presented the request on your behalf.

No additional level of internal approval is necessary. This action will be included in the Council's next Annual Activities Report to the University Senate (July 2024).

The presumption is that you will come forward in the months ahead with a formal proposal for a University-level center. I will help you with that process.

Please keep a copy of this message for the file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

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September 27, 2023

W. Randy Smith, PhD
Vice Provost for Academic Programs
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 43210

Application for Temporary Center Status to Establish The OSU Center for Health Equity

Dear Randy,

I am writing for approval of temporary center status with the ultimate goal of creating The Ohio State University (OSU) *Center for Health Equity*. The Center is part of commitments on my recruitment as Chief Health Equity Officer. In the offer letter signed by the Provost, the Dean of the College of Medicine, and interim co-Leaders of the OSU Wexner Medical Center, I was designated to serve as the Director to **“report to the Provost or his/her designee.”** “The OSU and the WMC commit[ed] to an initial investment of \$1million per year over the first 5 years to establish the Center and support a health equity research and innovation program.” The goal is to “support internal catalytic research grants and other scholarly and career enhancing activities for current OSU faculty...[and]...serve as a catalyst for recruitment of top national and international talents.” As noted in the offer letter, the Center and the Director would:

- Work with RAISE leadership, and other University leaders, to lead and provide support for the hiring of postdoctoral fellows, and additional research, clinical and tenure track faculty in the health equity context across the University to increase diversity and inclusive excellence, and
- Provide support and leadership, as part of a collaborative team, for transforming the culture, policies, and practices across the University in ways that will bolster the recruitment, inclusion, and retention of faculty with diverse backgrounds.

Advancing health equity and solutions for social determinants of health is a core element of our Land-Grant mission and dovetails with initiatives at the Ohio Department of Health and Columbus Public Health. Stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and amplified emphasis on social justice, there are ongoing national and regional efforts on health equity, defined as a state in which everyone can attain their full health potential, and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of socially determined circumstances. Bi-directional integration of research and evaluation with program design and implementation is key to transformational change in this area.

Many Centers of Health Equity exist nationally, but there is currently no University level center at OSU. Establishing the Center is essential for becoming not only a repository for resources but to serve as a Campus-wide collaborative catalyst of research, education, health services, and community engagement to identify and scale solutions for social, economic, and structural barriers that perpetuate avoidable and costly differences in the quality of life and longevity of our communities. As an example, the Center can help spur externally funded research to harness and inform current national social care initiatives based on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ (CMS) new measure on health equity and the elevation of health equity as one of The Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety Goals.



This application is informed by a year-long process of strategic planning with engagement of a broad range of institutional and community leaders that culminated in the development of an OSUWMC health equity roadmap. To further develop the Center, a retreat was held, drawing on campus-wide research and administrative leadership. A conclusion of the retreat was that the Center will fill an unmet need that will not be adequately addressed through individual efforts or centers housed within individual colleges. A University Center will take advantage of scale and coalesce (not subsume) research, education, and health-related activities in individual Colleges and centers guided by:

- **Vision:** A world in which everyone attains their full health potential
- **Mission:** Create, evaluate, and share solutions to transform the quality and inclusiveness of health solutions and change the conditions that create inequities.

These aspirations can only be achieved through a Center structure on a university platform to advance OSU's Land-Grant mission. In summary, the Center will:

1. **Fill** the need for a campus-wide hub for catalyzing health equity innovation, convene faculty and trainees with relevant interests and expertise, and address high-priority needs in the state.
2. **Serve** as a dedicated home for health equity research, education, and community engagement and act as a facilitator for reducing health disparities in **rural and urban** communities. It would sharpen the focus on health equity, increase competitiveness in external funding opportunities, and increase visibility and impact of health equity scholarship through multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary research across the translational science continuum.
3. **Strengthen** existing programs including large, funded centers such as the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and the OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center.
4. **Provide** a platform for investigator development and career advancement for persons from groups that are not well represented in the scientific workforce based on the NIH definition.
5. **Support** the **recruitment** and **retention** of top health equity talent, and **support** convening and networking to advance the science of health equity across colleges and disciplines beyond the ability of individual faculty efforts.
6. Be a **platform** for dialogue on key policy and scientific issues on health equity, and thought leadership and national reputation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chyke A. Doubeni, MD, MPH

Chyke A. Doubeni, MD, MPH
Professor of Family and Community Medicine