

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO**

UH Hilo Administration  
Office of the Chancellor

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July 29, 2011

MEMORANDUM

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TO: Eric Martinson  
Chairperson, Board of Regents

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

VIA: M.R.C. Greenwood  
President



FROM: Donald O. Straney  
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo



SUBJECT: Approval of the Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo as a provisional program

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Board of Regents approve the Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP) as a provisional program, to be administered by the College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo).

ADDITIONAL COST:

Costs for this program are equalized initially by revenue derived from a contract with Tripler Army Medical Center ("TAMC"). UH Hilo College of Pharmacy was selected by TAMC for a three year contract to implement the MSCP program with the possibility to extend the agreement for future years. In addition to the existing faculty members, a Ph.D.-level coordinator has been hired through the TAMC contract. A clinical coordinator with a PharmD will be recruited also through the TAMC contract. Direct program costs for the years 2011-2013 are covered by TAMC, as indicated in the attached budget projection.

The existing faculty members who will participate in the program are listed in the proposal. The number of faculty listed in the revenue template provides an indication of the number involved in the didactic portion of the curriculum. Faculty members who have been involved in planning and preparation of course syllabi have delivered recorded lectures. All necessary equipment is obtained through the TAMC contract. In sum, the College of Pharmacy has full confidence in being able to launch a high quality graduate program without the necessity of requesting any additional internal resources. Should the TAMC contract not be extended, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo will be able to fund the program through tuition revenues.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Fall 2011

PURPOSE:

The UH Hilo College of Pharmacy proposes a Master of Science degree in Clinical Psychopharmacology that would address the needs of the US Army in Hawai'i and the Pacific region. The proposed program also will meet the needs of non-military clinical psychologists with prescriptive authority in the future.

At the present time, the College of Pharmacy provides training and experience leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree; the first student pharmacists graduated in May 2011. In addition to offering curricula leading to the PharmD, the College of Pharmacy will offer a Ph.D. level program beginning in August 2011. The opportunity to provide a Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology program would bolster the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy's postdoctoral offerings and will improve the career opportunities available for our armed forces and Hawai'i residents.

The objective of the MSCP program is to provide a rigorous, advanced education in clinical psychopharmacology to licensed, doctoral-level, practicing psychologists to enable them to safely and effectively prescribe medications for their patients in accordance with all relevant state and federal laws.

The degree will prepare graduates to be clinical psychologists with extensive skills and knowledge in pharmacotherapy. The successful training of clinical psychologists in the art and science of psychopharmacology will afford improved mental health treatment for our service men and women and their families.

Comprehensive planning for this degree is complete, no obstacles are apparent, all resources are available, and there is an obvious need for this new Master of Science degree program. We seek Board approval to initiate the program of study.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Pursuant to Board of Regents Policy 5-1, the Board of Regents has the authority to approve new degree programs upon recommendation by the President.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy currently offers a curriculum leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), which is required to gain licensure for professional practice as a pharmacist. The College also will offer a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences beginning Fall 2011. With the addition of a Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology, this will be the first program of this type to be offered by the University of Hawai'i, and the only program of this type offered in the State of Hawai'i and in the Pacific region generally.

The UH Hilo College of Pharmacy proposes a Master of Science degree in Clinical Pharmacology that would address the need of the US Army in Hawai'i and the Pacific region for additional clinical psychologists with prescriptive authority. It would meet the anticipated growth in demand in the general population as an increasing number of states join Louisiana, New Mexico, and Guam in granting such authority to qualified specialists.

The College of Pharmacy would be the first pharmacy school in the nation to provide this distinctive training. The program offers pharmacotherapeutics training with a strong emphasis on the clinical, scientific and pharmaceutical expertise available only through the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy. The proposed program is unique to Hawai'i, the Pacific and the nation. Other institutions around the country offer post-doctoral masters degrees in psychopharmacology through schools of psychology.

The College of Pharmacy is situated on Hawai'i Island; accordingly, the MSCP program will be delivered to students at TAMC by a combination of technology-mediated modalities and onsite, face-to-face interactions between faculty and students. Program delivery modes can be adapted to reach students across a broader geographical range, including those serving at US military hospitals outside the country.

Distance learning technologies enable the College of Pharmacy to meet the diverse needs of the professionals seeking an MSCP degree. The program is designed to address the challenges of offering a reliable, consistent and accessible educational product with distance learning tools. Flexibility in the program's reliance on any given technology and resourcefulness in incorporating new online tools is built into the structure of the distance learning plan.

The MSCP program is consistent with the University's mission as stated in the 2002-2010 Strategic Plan, which calls both for quality undergraduate programs and for graduate programs "where need warrants and the university has strong expertise." The program also provides advanced professional development to working clinicians, with an initial focus on those practicing in the state of Hawai'i through the United States Military.

There is ample documentation of the need for clinical psychologists to be properly trained in the use of psychotherapeutic drugs and ultimately to have prescriptive authority. This need exists not only in the US military, but also in the civilian population, and not only in Hawai'i but across the nation. The program would be extended beyond the military setting to qualified professionals in the growing number of states that are expected to grant such authority to those with the training in psychopharmacology offered by such programs as the MSCP. There is a strong possibility that Hawai'i will eventually be among those states.

A partnership with Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC), begun in the fall of 2010, provides funding for faculty, course design and materials, student support, and clinical supervision for the three years. The first cohorts of the MSCP program will be comprised of PhDs in clinical psychology that are on staff at TAMC and associated military facilities.

The MSCP program initially will be made available to students from TAMC. Currently, clinical psychologists with an MS in Clinical Psychopharmacology in the Armed Services are granted prescriptive authority. The program provides the immediate need to train these students. Establishment of a successful program that meets the needs of

TAMC will enable the College of Pharmacy to offer the program to students outside of TAMC in the near future.

The proposal describes the program as it would exist once approval is granted by the UH Board of Regents. The grant began in the fall of 2010 to cover the cost of the four current students in the experimental program.

Curricula and support systems developed, assessed, and refined with TAMC support will enable the College to establish a quality program that can be sustained for the foreseeable future. The MSCP program curriculum is a rigorous one, challenging highly trained specialists in clinical psychology to gain mastery of the complex field of psychotropic medication and its application in therapeutic settings over the course of two academic years and two summers. Students must demonstrate, by the completion of the program, a high level of competence in eleven content areas of didactic and clinical knowledge; all aspects of information retrieval and communication underlying the program learning outcomes; and medication therapy management specific to psychopathology.

Program effectiveness will be monitored and documented by a number of means, including internal assessment of student examinations, reports, and other performances; appraisals of clinical supervisors; and pass rates of TAMC MSCP students in the American Psychological Association's Psychopharmacology Examination for Psychologists, used by state licensing boards for testing licensed clinical psychologists who seek prescriptive authority. Student satisfaction and post-program success will be gauged through student interviews, surveys, focus groups, and employer surveys. The College has a fulltime Assessment Coordinator whose responsibilities include the MSCP program. On June 17, 2011, the MSCP program was granted interim approval by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

In sum, the MSCP program meets BOR criteria for evaluation of graduate programs and Executive Policy 5.201. Appendix B Guidelines for New Programs.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

It is recommend that the Board of Regents approve the Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology as a provisional program, to be administered by the College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, effective Fall 2011.

Attachment - Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology program proposal

N.B. A hard copy and an electronic copy of the full proposal will be available at the BOR office.

c: Keith Amemiya, Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents