



# CEPH

COUNCIL on EDUCATION for PUBLIC HEALTH

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July 2, 2009

Joxel Garcia, MD, MBA  
President & Dean  
Ponce School of Medicine  
388 Zona Ind Reparada 2  
Ponce, PR 00716-2347

Dear President Garcia:

The Council on Education for Public Health met on June 17-20, 2009 to consider the Ponce School of Medicine MPH Program's initial review for accreditation. The Council acted to deny the program's request for accreditation.

The Council based its decision on the work of an evaluation team that visited the program in September 2008. At that time, the team had an opportunity to interview program constituents, review extensive documentation and inspect facilities and other resources available to the program. Based on the team's report and information provided subsequently by the program, the Council concluded that the program does not currently comply with the accreditation criteria.

We are enclosing a copy of the Council's final accreditation report. At the meeting, the Council adopted the team's report with two revisions. First, the Council inserted language in Criterion 1.2, Evaluation and Planning, to reflect its understanding of changes that the program has undertaken since the site visit, which the program communicated in its response to the site visit team's report. Second, the Council removed language in Criterion 1.6 that refers to concerns about the presentation of indirect cost recovery in the budget statement, since the recovery of indirect cost funds is not required for accreditation. Otherwise, the enclosed report is identical to the report you received prior to the meeting.

Dr. Manuel Bayona has been advised of the opportunity to appeal this decision, as outlined in the enclosed *Accreditation Procedures, amended February 2008* and *Staff Responsibilities During Appeals Proceedings, adopted February 9, 2008*. Denial of accreditation is an adverse action that is not made public for 30 days after notification of the decision, during which time a program may file a written appeal and request a hearing.

We appreciated the hospitality and helpfulness extended to the site visit team last fall, and we especially appreciated your taking the time to provide an additional written response to the team's report.

Sincerely,

James D. Yager, PhD  
President

Enclosure

cc: Manuel Bayona, MD, MS, PhD  
CEPH Councilors

**Received**  
President and Dean Office  
7/7/09