BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

NORTHEASTERN OHIO UNIVERSITIES COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Master of Public Health

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

This program clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degree programs. The Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study (RACGS) recently endorsed degree-granting authority to the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine for the Master of Public Health as one of the six institutions currently engaged in offering this program as a member of the Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health (CEOMPH) program. NEOUCOM is *not* requesting approval of a new degree program; NEOUCOM requests the extension of degree-granting authority to NEOUCOM so that all six members of the CEOMPH have the ability to enroll and graduate students in the consortium Master of Public Health program that already was considered and approved by the Ohio Board of Regents in 1999.

Request: Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine seeks approval to extend degree granting authority for the Master of Public Health as one of the six institutions currently offering this program as a member of the Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health (CEOMPH) program. The member institutions of the CEOMPH program are; The University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, NEOUCOM, Ohio University and Youngstown State University. It is important to note that NEOUCOM is not requesting approval of a new degree program; NEOUCOM is requesting consideration to extend degree-granting authority to NEOUCOM so that all six members of the CEOMPH have the ability to enroll and graduate students in the consortium Master of Public Health program already considered and approved by the Ohio Board of Regents.

Background: Under the leadership of C. William Keck, M.D., M.P.H., NEOUCOM spearheaded the process to both develop and then implement what was originally called the "Northeastern Ohio Universities Master of Public Health" (NEOU MPH) program. The MPH program approved by the Ohio Board of Regents in 1999 outlined a collaborative program involving five partner institutions: the University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, and Youngstown State University. In 2004, Ohio University was added to the consortium, and the program was renamed the "Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health" (CEOMPH) program. Today, the CEOMPH program is a strong, successful collaboration of six public higher education institutions with NEOUCOM still serving as the central administrative and coordinating office for the

program. Dr. Keck, recently retired Professor and Chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences at NEOUCOM, led the CEOMPH Governing Council in previous academic years and is a key voice in public health education both regionally and nationally. Amy Lee, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at NEOUCOM, has served as the program director for the CEOMPH since its inception and has led the program through academic program development and implementation including, but not limited to, leading all accreditation processes.

Program Purpose/Mission: The mission of NEOUCOM is to improve the health of northeast Ohio through health professions education, research and service. NEOUCOM is the only public doctor of medicine degree-granting institution in Northeast Ohio, and it is the only doctor of pharmacy degree-granting institution in all of Eastern Ohio. Degree-granting authority for the MPH is consistent with NEOUCOM's mission and Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut's expectation that all of Ohio's public universities will have focused areas of excellence. It is NEOUCOM's intent to focus the proposed MPH program efforts on health professions students across the continuum of their education and further expand NEOUCOM's contributions in interprofessional health professions education. NEOUCOM is confident that their full involvement in this program will expand its reach to the citizens of Ohio and result in an increase in both the number and diversity of students in the MPH program. This expansion of the current program will benefit the CEOMPH program, all of NEOUCOM's partner institutions, and most importantly, the State of Ohio.

The mission statement of the Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public health program is to provide accredited public health education designed for the working professional. It does this through a collaborative learning community, drawing on the collective resources of its six member institutions and partnering community agencies. The program strives to produce respected and competent professionals able to improve public health practice, especially in Eastern Ohio. The CEOMPH mission statement aligns with the mission of NEOUCOM which is: The NEOUCOM and Pharmacy improves the quality of health care in northeast Ohio through interprofessional health education of medical, pharmacy and health sciences students oriented to practice at the community level, with an emphasis on primary care; assistance to the residency programs in the associated teaching hospitals; continuing education of physicians, pharmacists and other health professionals; the participation of faculty and students in the development of new knowledge through research and regional partnering in the education of graduate students in the biomedical, community health, behavioral sciences and health sciences; and the provision of community service programs and health education throughout the northeast Ohio region. The ability to offer the MPH degree is consistent with NEOUCOM's mission and will provide the opportunity to further fulfill their mission.

NEOUCOM's Role in the CEOMPH: The main program office for the CEOMPH program is housed at NEOUCOM. Dr. Amy Lee serves as the Program Director for the CEOMPH and is supported by a 1.0 FTE administrative assistant, a .20 FTE Capstone Coordinator, a .20 FTE distance learning assistant and a .50 FTE accreditation coordinator; these individuals are employees of NEOUCOM and are supported through the CEOMPH program. The program office manages the operations of the CEOMPH program working with the multiple consortium councils and committees established to develop and implement policies and procedures for general and strategic planning, curriculum, admissions fiscal issues, faculty appointments and promotions, and continuing education.

Working with the Program Director and the Governing Council, the Budget Office at NEOUCOM develops and implements the budget for the CEOMPH program. The Program Director is responsible for providing the enrollment and teaching projections and developing the operating budget for the next fiscal year. NEOUCOM is also responsible for generating and distributing CEOMPH reports.

In addition to its administrative role, NEOUCOM also plays a major role in the instruction of the program. The CEOMPH program assigns MPH units for core and directed elective course instruction, course direction, and faculty advising in the capstone experience. A Master of Public Health unit is assigned to the home institution of the faculty member participating in the unit of instruction. In the following table, it indicates the percentage distribution of instructional effort for the last five fiscal years in the CEOMPH program. NEOUCOM has provided between 24.77% and 30.44% of the total instruction of the CEOMPH program in each of the last five fiscal years.

Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health Program
Percentage Distribution of Instructional Effort

	FY04	**FY05**	**FY06**	**FY07**	**FY08**
UA	2.38%	3.66%	14.38%	4.51%	4.46%
CSU	15.98%	28.63%	10.18%	12.11%	15.99%
KSU	20.88%	2.06%	13.14%	15.30%	2.26%
NEOUCOM	28.77%	30.44%	24.77%	28.31%	27.39%
OU	N/A	8.29%	9.79%	16.06%	28.35%
YSU	31.99%	26.92%	27.73%	23.71%	21.55%

NEOUCOM is an integral part of the CEOMPH program, and by providing NEOUCOM with the ability to enroll and graduate students, it will expand the impact of the MPH program as well as strengthen NEOUCOM as a member of the University System of Ohio.

Evidence of Need: Extending degree-granting authority to NEOUCOM will allow the consortium to grow its enrollment and increase the number of graduates. NEOUCOM does not expect enrollments at their consortium partner institutions to be negatively impacted by their inclusion as a degree-granting institution. The need for public health professionals in the future is well-documented in the health care community, exemplified by the Association of Schools of Public Health stating that 250,000 more public health workers will be needed by 2020. The CEOMPH has graduated the following numbers of students in the last three years: 22 in AY2005-06, 28 in AY2006-07, and 17 in AY2007-08, and these numbers are expected to increase with NEOUCOM's inclusion. The more health professionals that can be educated in public health, the better our communities will be served.

Students who seek an MPH degree may come from various backgrounds. Physicians, pharmacists, nurses and other health care workers are especially interested in the MPH degree, but it is important to note that any student with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university is able to seek the MPH. While the need for public health education was defined in the previous submissions to the OBR, it is important to note that according to the American Public Health Association "four out of five public health employees lack formal public health training." Public health education will continue to be critical to the future of health care in our region, and the CEOMPH program is uniquely designed to work collaboratively among the six institutions to offer this education to students in our community.

The medical community has recognized the need for enhanced public health education and the further integration between medicine and public health. Many medical schools have developed or are developing combined M.D./M.P.H. programs. In addition, some medical schools have created preventive medicine departments and residency programs to link the medicine and public health silos that exist at many universities. NEOUCOM sees an opportunity to not only develop the combined M.D./M.P.H. and Pharm D./M.P.H., but also as an interprofessional team training approach emphasizing public health and preventative medicine that will appeal to many health professionals as well as other MPH degree-seeking students. NEOUCOM strives to develop a national model in interprofessional education that is unique in its structure and success.

End of Comment Period: April 6, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved	
	4/23/09
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

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