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Public Health

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA
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September 30, 1994

Dear Students of the Health Sciences Program:

Welcome! This is the first of a series of letters that I will address to you, the students of the Health Sciences Program of the American University of Armenia, over the next academic year. I hope to keep you informed about the developments of this new Program and respond to some of your questions.

Considering that most of you are currently enrolled in the English language and computer skills programs, this is a very critical beginning of your education. Communication skills that you will develop in the English language as well as with computers will be most important in your future careers. These skills are essential in maximizing the educational experience that you will have while studying with us at the AUA.

In July, a workshop was held at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. There were 15 participating faculty members who helped finalize the curriculum and the structure of your Program. Now that the framework of the Program is developed, a final workshop will be held with faculty who will be teaching in the Program on October 29, 1994 in Washington, D.C. At this final workshop, faculty will present the detailed plans of each of the courses. We have a line-up of excellent faculty most of whom have international expertise and reputation.

Our first professional module will start in March 1995, with a three week introductory workshop that will focus on the problem solving paradigm in public health and Epidemiological problem investigation. I will teach this module with Mr. Michael Thompson from the Johns Hopkins University. This will be followed by a three week session on Biostatistics and Health Information Systems. Dr. Rebecca DerSimonian from the National Institutes of Health in the U.S., has accepted to teach in this portion of the Program. The last part of this first module will provide an exposure on the use of Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health. Dr. Julie Gazmararian from Atlanta and Kim Hekimian from Johns Hopkins will teach this section.

The second module of the Program will start in June 1995 and focus on techniques of problem investigation and evaluation. The first workshop will be on problem investigation in Environmental Health and the second workshop will provide a more advanced exposure to Epidemiologic methods. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta will provide faculty support to this second workshop. The last three weeks of this module will allow a discussion and exposure in Economics and Finance in health systems.

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In the 1995 fall quarter, we will present the third module of the Program that will focus on program planning and development. The three main workshops in this module are projected to teach health services management, program planning and project development, and evaluation.

President Mihran Aghababian and the Steering Committee of the Health Sciences Program, headed by Dr. Rudi Schmid from the University of California in San Francisco, are actively seeking to strengthen the organizational and financial base of this Program. We hope that they will be successful in guaranteeing enough funding so that it will be possible for us to extend the Program to a second specialized year.

As part of its discussions, the July workshop participants have agreed that in addition to the teaching faculty, we will have coordinators of modules in Armenia from the academic and active leadership of the Ministry of Health. Students will also have access via E-mail to a number of corresponding faculty from the U.S., who will provide their expertise for projects and other problems that the student may have.

It is with great pleasure that the faculty welcomes you to the newest of the programs within AUA. The training that you get will make you unique with the type of expertise that is very much needed in Armenia and the neighboring countries.

The faculty has a role of helping you with your problems. However, like in other graduate programs, it is primarily the student's responsibility to work hard and succeed. We know that you have the personal strength of character to succeed.

Very truly yours,



Haroutune K. Armenian, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Professor of Epidemiology
Program Coordinator