

AUA Public Health Program
Minutes of the Meeting January 24, 1995

On January 24, 1995, a meeting took place with Dr. Haroutune Armenian, Kim Hekimian, Michael Thompson, and Dr. Ara Tekian via telephone. The following issues were discussed:

- 1) Wellstart Subcontract: We discussed the possibility of proposing a subcontract for the Health Services Research and Development Center with Wellstart International to conduct a national evaluation of infant feeding practices. Wellstart is a cooperative agreement program with USAID which provides technical assistance to developing countries on maternal and child health issues, breastfeeding promotion in particular. We need to write a budget within the next month. This project would provide an opportunity to the public health program's students and faculty to work with the Ministry of Health and USAID on such a research project.
- 2) Journals: Previously we had discussed the possibility of purchasing back copies of a variety of public health journals on microfiche for use by the AUA students. However, microfiche is both expensive and somewhat cumbersome. Therefore, we decided to subscribe to approximately 15 of the top journals representing a variety of subdisciplines in public health and send these to the AUA library.
- 3) NLM Medline / CD ROM: We will order (on CD ROM) the database of journal articles with abstracts called Medline from the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health.
- 4) Visas: In order to facilitate the visa process, we need to send passport information as soon as possible to the Oakland office as well as anticipated dates of arrival and duration of stay for faculty members.
- 5) Epidemiology Unit: The outline provided by the CDC looks good but needs to include additional information on case-control, cohort, and randomized clinical control methodology. Dr. Armenian will work on this with CDC's Scott McNabb.
- 6) Ideas on the Second Year of the Program: After much discussion regarding the possibility of adding a second year of the program to move from Certificate Program status to Master's degree level, we decided that, due to time, financial and other resource constraints, we will not offer the Masters degree (second year) advanced training in 1996. Instead, we will finish this year's class as a certificate program, accept another cohort for a certificate program for 1996, and, in the third year (1997) we will offer the second year of advanced training necessary to complete a Master's degree in Public Health. Thus, those students who successfully complete the Certificate program (both years) will be eligible to enroll in the Master's degree completion year.

7) Environmental Health Course: Dr. Alex Bakalian and Dr. George Piligian are completing their curriculum outlines for a course on Environmental Health. Dr. Joseph Deviny has sent us a copy of his plans for a course on Environmental Engineering which we will review and coordinate our students' participation.

8) Faculty Recruitment: The majority of our faculty are set; however, we need to recruit for Health Care Administration and Management, and perhaps for Health Care Finance and Economics. Both Dr. Armenian and Dr. Tekian have appropriate faculty in mind and will approach them soon. At this point, however, faculty have been recruited for six out of nine courses to be offered this year.

AUA Public Health Program
Minutes of the Meeting January 27, 1995

On January 27, 1995, Dr. Haroutune Armenian, Kim Hekimian, Dr. Michael Kouchakdjian, and Michael Thompson met in Baltimore to review administrative issues for the public health program. The following issues were discussed:

- 1) Future Master's Degree Training: We discussed the idea of having this year's health students complete their certificate program, offer another certificate program for 1996, and then, in 1997, offer advanced training to complete a Master's in Public Health which would be available to both years of the certificate program. This was viewed as a practical course, given our current time, financial and resource constraints.
- 2) Public Health Class Time: Michael Kouchakdjian indicated that our current plan to have public health classes meet in the afternoon would work well for the AUA, since most of the Engineering and MBA classes were held in the morning. This schedule would thus facilitate our students' use of computer labs and classroom space.
- 3) Administrative Assistant in Armenia: The AUA in Armenia will recruit an administrative assistant for the Public Health program as soon as possible. Ideally, the assistant will be proficient in English and microcomputer skills, and perhaps some familiarity with medical terminology.
- 4) Meeting with the AUA Registrar: We discussed the possibility of meeting with Michael Conrad, AUA Registrar, when he is in the US for vacation, to discuss the admission procedures.
- 5) Contact with the AUA Librarian: The librarian at the AUA, Ani Bohigian, is due to be in the US this month, and we would like to contact her by telephone to discuss library related issues such as space, CD ROM capabilities, and use of journal articles.
- 6) E-mail Access to Students: One of the ideas for the public health program is to provide e-mail access to all students for communication with adjunct faculty in the US. Michael Kouchakdjian indicated that this is an issue currently being discussed by the AUA, and should be clear soon as to student access to internet services.
- 7) Computers: We quickly reviewed our computer needs and discussed whether it would be possible to have five or six PCs in the public health classroom to facilitate group exercises. We will try to arrange this.
- 8) Insurance / Medical Care: We learned that there is a small clinic housed at the AUA and that there is some type of arrangement at a local hospital in Yerevan for faculty use. Insurance is individually negotiated; at this time there is not an AUA policy.

9) Relations with Extension Program: Since the public health program is a Certificate and technically lies within the responsibility of the Extension Program, we will need to coordinate and communicate our needs with the director of that program, Ms. Sona Hamalian.

10) Letter to Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education: We need to send a letter addressed to the Ministers of Health and Higher Education thanking them for their support and asking for their feedback on our proposed curriculum.

11) Faculty Itineraries: As soon as possible, we should send a list of which faculty will be going to the AUA from the US, their expected dates of arrival and duration of stay. This information, along with relevant passport data will be necessary to facilitate invitations, visas, travel and housing arrangements.

12) Letter to Dr. Mihran Nazaretian: Dr. Mihran Nazaretian, a former Minister of Health of Armenia, has been in communication with us for some time and has repeatedly offered his assistance with our program. We will need to write to him and express our appreciation and ask him to aid us in planning the third module of classes, which will cover Health Services Management.