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### 1977 Letter of Reasonable Assurance

East Tennessee State University

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# LIAISON COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

Council on Medical Education  
American Medical Association  
535 North Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60610

June 30, 1977

Executive Council  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
One Dupont Circle, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Edward S. Petersen, M.D.  
LCME Secretary, 1977-1978

J.R. Schofield, M.D.  
LCME Secretary, 1976-1977

Dr. D.P. Culp, Ed.D.  
President  
East Tennessee State University  
Johnson City, Tennessee 37601

Dear Doctor Culp:

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education, in its meeting of June 29-30, 1977, has acted to authorize a Letter of Reasonable Assurance of future accreditation for the proposed program terminating in the M.D. degree for a class limited to twenty-four (24) students beginning in September, 1979 subject to further decision by the Liaison Committee after receiving the report of a full survey to consider the readiness of the school to be granted Provisional Accreditation. A progress report is requested by September 15, 1978 on the following items:

## 1. Faculty

- a. appointment of a 'critical mass' of faculty in all basic science departments, prior to entrance of the students
- b. demonstration of evidence of recruitment of full-time clinical faculty at the VA school and affiliated hospitals
- c. identification of individuals responsible for departmental programs in affiliated hospitals
- d. development of details of organization of full-time clinical faculty and their relationships with affiliated hospitals and community physicians
- e. identification of voluntary faculty and their relationships to the school
- f. appointment of Directors of Medical Education with identified administrative and academic responsibilities at affiliated hospitals
- g. development of an outline of the role and responsibility of the Associate Dean for hospital and community affairs

The above are an attempt to identify flow patterns and responsibilities in the school's administrative structure which at the present time consists of three disjointed levels:

- a) DME's
- b) clinical coordinating committee
- c) departments

## 2. Curriculum

- a) development of detailed behavioral objectives for each course
- b) naming of course directors
- c) designation, for interdepartmental courses, of a 'senior' department to be responsible and a director for each course
- d) design of a system of evaluation of the students' progress in all courses

## 3. Facilities

- a) space

In order that the faculty can complete its mission, we need an interim report on details of progress in remodelling space and its appropriateness for the educational and service programs.

- b) parent university

We need evidence of interdigitation of medical school programs with the parent university in such areas as education in the sciences, allied health and perhaps behavioral sciences.

By acting to issue a "Letter of Reasonable Assurance", the Liaison Committee has determined that the East Tennessee State University College of Medicine has presented an acceptable plan for the development of a proposed school of medicine, which plan, if fully implemented as projected, may reasonably be expected to conform to the requirements for full accreditation within a reasonable time. Further, the Liaison Committee has determined that it is possible for the plan to be implemented.

Formal notice is given, however, that the issuance of a "Letter of Reasonable Assurance" does not commit the Liaison Committee to the granting of provisional accreditation, which is required prior to the acceptance of students for enrollment at the proposed college of medicine.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education has authorized the transmittal to you and to the Dean of the report of the survey conducted on May 2-5, 1977.


I will advise the Commissioner of Education of the U.S. Office of Education of this action to issue a Letter of Reasonable Assurance and also Robert F. Knouss, M.D., Director, Division of Medicine,

Dr. D.P. Culp, Ed.D.  
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Bureau of Health Manpower.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the AAMC or Edward S. Petersen, M.D., at the AMA.

Sincerely,

  
J.R. Schofield, M.D.  
LCME Secretary, 1976-1977

JRS:jem

Enclosure

cc: Jack E. Mobley, M.D.  
Dean, College of Medicine

Edward S. Petersen, M.D.  
LCME Secretary, 1977-1978