



UNC
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

David Hemsey, MD

Professor of Medicine
Chief, Division of Hospital Medicine
UNC Department of Medicine
101 Manning Dr., CB 7085
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7085

T 984-974-1931
F 984-974-2216

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Dear Review Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to express my strongest support for Drs. Babette Stern and Joshua Garcia's IHQI Scholars Program application entitled: "SAFE Reporting as a mechanism to document and address patient safety concerns related to diversity, equity, and inclusion." As Chief of the Division of Hospital Medicine, I will be able to support his efforts on this important project.

The UNC Division of Hospital Medicine provides care for a significant fraction of the inpatients being cared for across UNC Medical Center and the Hillsborough campus across multiple service lines. In the past year, we also started a divisional initiative to improve the education and engagement of our faculty around the issues of diversity, equity and inclusion under the leadership of Dr. Garcia. Part of this effort has included evaluating the care provided for our patients from our multi-disciplinary team through a DEI lens. While our providers are aware of anecdotal issues, the data needed to critically evaluate and improve our care are lacking. This project will aim to improve the quantity and quality of the data collection and help formulate interventions that can be used to address these issues in real time, for our patients and those across the many service lines of UNC Hospitals.

Our division will give its full support to the project and we look forward to working closely with Drs. Stern and Garcia. We will ensure that any team members from Hospital Medicine have sufficient time to attend required quality improvement training, conduct the improvement project, and monitor and report on project progress. As you know, our faculty have been committed to continuous quality improvement and have led multiple previous projects sponsored through the IHQI that have improved patient safety with placement of central lines, standardized care for patients with alcohol abuse disorders, syncope and opiate use disorder-related infections, and optimized communications during Rapid Response team interactions.

Thank you for considering this proposal and the UNC Division of Hospital Medicine looks forward to working on these efforts to improve the quality of care for our patients.

Sincerely,

David F. Hemsey, MD
Professor of Medicine
Chief, Division of Hospital Medicine