



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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October 15, 2018

New Academic Degree Program Review Committee
The University of North Carolina System

Dear Review Committee Members,

I write to enthusiastically support the proposal to establish a major in Medical Anthropology. This field of study represents an important opportunity for UNC students, especially as it is established in the requirements of the proposed major. As a discipline, anthropology has long examined the way human beliefs, values, and customs come to take shape in everything from diets to transmission of disease. Anthropology brings together human biologists who research the microbiome to ethnographers who explore how health knowledge passes between generations. A global and cross-cultural field of study, anthropology also examines the differences and convergences among healing systems and medical traditions.

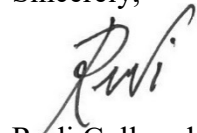
Carolina students stand to gain immediately from the new major. For those seeking a career in the health professions, a major in Medical Anthropology complements training in the natural sciences. Courses in medical anthropology explore population variations in health outcomes due to the influence of culture. The curriculum also equips students with ways to understand the meanings people find in illness and healing; the moral stakes of medical decisions. Additionally, courses in medical anthropology give students awareness of the formal institutions and social relations that become the channels and limitations of technical knowledge about illness and healing.

The Department of Anthropology has had an international reputation for its excellence in medical anthropology since the 1970s. They are well placed to support the new major and sustain an innovative curriculum in this area. In the past decade, specialists in this field have worked in Eastern Europe, Africa and the Americas. Their expertise spans cultural and biological anthropology. They have launched a highly successful minor in Medical Anthropology, which grew rapidly and attracted the participation of faculty from a number of different departments. The new major is well designed extension of this minor.

The College of Arts and Sciences sees a wider benefit to this major. Along with a new minor in the Department of Sociology in Health and Society, the Medical Anthropology major will be an

important credential in rigorous social science to support interdisciplinary approaches to health and healing. This field will be a showcase for the promise of interdisciplinary education. I am excited to see it being brought forward and pleased to endorse it. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rudi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld, PhD

Senior Associate Dean for Social Science and Global Programs

Professor of Anthropology

13 October 2018

UNC System Vice President for Academic Programs, Faculty, and Research
UNC System Office

I am pleased to add my full and enthusiastic support for plans to establish a new undergraduate major in Medical Anthropology at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The Department of Anthropology has long had a national reputation for research and teaching in medical anthropology. That experience and expertise has broadened considerably over the past decade, becoming more integrative in the process, incorporating a wider range of methods and theories from the natural sciences and humanities as well as the social sciences. Concomitantly, the number of our faculty who are engaged with the medical anthropology program has expanded. This positions Anthropology to contribute uniquely to the burgeoning focus on health and society at our university.

There is clearly a growing demand for medical anthropology courses among UNC undergraduates, and for a major that would enable deeper, more systematic engagement with this field. This stems from the intrinsic interest in the diverse matter covered by the courses, but also from growing recognition of the utility of the knowledge gained. The multi-disciplinary approach and flexibility of the proposed major offers excellent training for future graduate study in numerous careers in health care and social service arenas, as well as research in natural and social sciences.

Establishing this new major in Medical Anthropology will in short order benefit our students and our University. Longer term our students' training and experience will benefit our State and global community.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Leslie
Pardue Distinguished Professor
and Interim Chair
Department of Anthropology
919-962-1243
pwleslie@unc.edu



Letter of Intent to Develop New Academic Degree Program

The following approvals must be obtained prior to sending the Letter of Intent to Develop a New Academic Degree Program to the UNC System Office.

Institution _____ University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Degree Program Title (e.g. M.A. in Biology) _____ B.A. in Medical Anthropology

Reviewed and Approved By (Name and title only. No signature required in this section.)
Check box to indicate participation in review. (Provost is required.)

- ☐ Provost:
- ☐ Faculty Senate Chair (as appropriate):
- ☐ Graduate Council (as appropriate):
- ☐ Undergraduate or Graduate Dean (as appropriate):
- ☒ Academic College Dean: Rudolf Colloredo-Mansfeld
- ☒ Department Chair: Paul W. Leslie, Interim Chair
- ☒ Program Director/Coordinator:

New Academic Proposal Process

New academic programs are initiated and developed by the faculty members. Approval of the Letter of Intent to Develop a New Academic Degree Program must be obtained from department chairs and college deans or equivalent administrators before submission to the UNC System Office review.

Directions: Please provide a succinct, yet thorough response to each section. Obtain the Provost's signature and submit the proposal via the PREP system to the UNC System Vice President for Academic Programs, Faculty, and Research, for review and approval by the UNC System Office. Once the Letter of Intent to Develop is approved, the institution can begin work on the formal Request to Establish a New Degree Program.

Letter of Intent to Develop a New Academic Degree Program

Institution	UNC- Chapel Hill
Joint Degree Program (Yes or No)? If so, list partner campus.	no
Degree Program Title (e.g. M.A. in Biology)	B.A. in Medical Anthropology
CIP Code and CIP Title (May be found at National Center for Education Statistics)	45.0203
Require UNC Teacher Licensure Specialty Area Code (Yes or No). If yes, list suggested UNC Specialty Area Code(s).	No
Proposed Delivery Mode (campus, online, or site-based distance education). Add maximum % online, if applicable.	Campus
Proposed Term to Enroll First Students (e.g. Spring 2019)	Fall 2019
List other programs in the UNC System (may be found at UNC System website)	None

SACSCOC Liaison Statement: *(Provide a brief statement from the University SACSCOC liaison regarding whether the new program is or is not a substantive change.)*

The proposed BA in Medical Anthropology will not be a substantive change for UNC-Chapel Hill. It does not represent a significant departure from our existing approved programs. Its multi-disciplinary curriculum will draw upon the expertise of current faculty in our biological/ecological sciences and social sciences areas and will not require a substantial addition of new resources.

Lynn Williford, PhD
 SACSCOC Liaison for UNC-Chapel Hill
lynn_williford@unc.edu

Program Summary: *(Briefly describe the proposed program and summarize the overall rationale.)*
Maximum of 1,000 words.

Include the following in your narrative:

- Ways in which the proposed program is distinct from others already offered in the UNC System (use the 4-digit CIP as a guide). Information on other programs may be found on the UNC System [website](#).
- How this program supports specific university and UNC System [missions](#).
- Collaborative opportunities with other UNC institutions as appropriate.

Medical Anthropology addresses the biological, cultural, and political-economic dimensions of health, illness, and healing historically and at present. Reflecting the multi-disciplinary character of its parent field of Anthropology, medical anthropology deploys quantitative and qualitative methods to examine the body as a site of evolutionary processes and cultural symbols, and healing as interpretive processes at macro, meso, and micro levels. Coursework uses the field's multiple research methods and approaches to data analysis to teach about the relationships between human biology, culture, and society; and the impacts of historical and institutional processes on health and healing. There is no existing course of study that systematically integrates biological, cultural, and historical methods and analysis of health and healing in the UNC system.

The Medical Anthropology Major is designed to ensure a rigorous, multi-disciplinary education with extensive flexibility for students to pursue their individual interests within this diverse field. Students are required to complete 2 (3 credit) Introductory /Foundations courses; 2 (3 credit) Research/Experience courses; and 5 (3 credit) Elective courses, including a minimum of 1 (3 credit) course from each of the two subdisciplinary foci within Medical Anthropology (Biological/Ecological and Sociocultural anthropology.) Students may choose up to 2 of these 5 elective courses from outside the medical anthropology curriculum, either from within Anthropology or other health-related studies. Through this multi-disciplinary curriculum that emphasizes analytical writing, quantitative methods, and ethnographic fieldwork, interpretive and positivist data analysis, Medical Anthropology majors benefit from the holism of a liberal arts education. They will be superbly prepared for training or future graduate study in numerous careers related to research in natural and social sciences, clinical health care, social service arenas, and the arts.

The Medical Anthropology major will enable students to realize five broad, specific objectives:

- (1) To demonstrate knowledge of the relationships between humans' health and historical, biocultural, and societal dynamics;
- (2) To demonstrate understanding of the ways comparative cultural and historical experiences impact health-related values and practices, definitions of illness, and methods of healing;

- (3) To demonstrate competence in reading, analyzing, and communicating social science research on health;
- (4) To gain experience conducting and/or applying research using medical anthropology's methods;
- (5) To gain an understanding of medical anthropology's relationships to the holistic, parent discipline of anthropology and its contributions to applied professional fields such as medicine and global health.

How this program supports specific university and UNC System [missions](#).

The Medical Anthropology Major pursues key objectives of the UNC System, UNC's College of Arts and Science's strategic plan, and UNC's Blueprint for Next. This new major exemplifies the development of a contemporary, innovative, inclusive, and global curriculum; it provides students with multidisciplinary, evidence-based knowledge, skills, and experiences that draw on and integrate the humanities and sciences; and will prepare students to be productive citizens in a 21st century global society that requires creativity, flexibility, and knowledge-based capabilities. More specifically, students in Medical Anthropology learn a holistic course of study that includes undertaking research on health, health care, and societal well-being; communicating research studies and findings on these issues, and applying these insights to understand and resolve social dilemmas. In these ways, the proposed Major in Medical Anthropology will fulfill the mission of the University of North Carolina "to discover, create, transmit, and apply knowledge to address the needs of individuals and society." Coursework for the Medical Anthropology Major examines health and healing in global context, examining both U.S. and international contexts, the present and the past.

The frameworks of inquiry and modes of analysis in Medical Anthropology explicitly address goals described in UNC-Chapel Hill's Blueprint for Next, which includes the need to solve complex challenges shaped by "disease, historic behavior patterns, inadequate access and numbers of providers" in order to "promote the well-being of the whole person and the health of the entire state of North Carolina." In addition to learning through traditional classroom experiences, students will be encouraged to undertake independent fieldwork and research in multiple forms, from local internships to study abroad programs, with faculty supervision. Medical Anthropology faculty support majors in their research and practice experiences by mentoring them in independent studies, research methods courses, and honors' theses, helping them prepare for leadership roles in the 21st century.

Collaborative opportunities with other UNC institutions as appropriate

Student Demand: *(Provide evidence of student demand. Discuss the extent to which students will be drawn from a pool of students not previously served by the institution. Maximum length 1,000 words.)*

Over the last six years, the number of students completing the Medical Anthropology Minor has grown significantly and has outpaced the growth of the Anthropology Major. We anticipate that students who will pursue the medical anthropology major are largely those who are currently pursuing the medical anthropology minor, but wish to specialize more extensively in the field. In this way, the pool of students to be served are currently receiving some education in the field, but have expressed interest in the opportunity to pursue a major. The proposed major will offer them new opportunities to delve deeper and more expansively into medical anthropology, and to have their education recognized through achieving a degree in the field.

To document student demand, we present below enrollment data and selected findings of two surveys we conducted among students pursuing the medical anthropology minor, a preliminary one in 2014 and a more in-depth survey in 2017. We provide both quantitative and qualitative insights from these data.

Major and Minor Demographics

Figures 1.1 and 1.2 provide data on the number of students pursuing Anthropology Majors and Minors and on the number of students graduating with Anthropology degrees for the past several years.

Figure 1. 1. Anthropology Majors and Minors Enrolled (Spring semesters)

	2010- 2011	2011- 2012	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015
Anthropology Majors	154	201	201	175	170
General Anthropology Minors	69	68	74	91	92
Medical Anthropology Minors	82	99	143	153	227
Spring Total	305	368	418	419	489

Figure 1. 2 Enrollment Data on Medical Anthropology Minor 2012-2017

- Listed below are the **number of medical anthropology minors awarded annually since 2012-13:**

Minor Totals	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Medical anthropology	45	45	70	100	97	88

- Medical anthropology ranked #4 during the 2015-16 academic year and #6 among all UG minors at the University in total graduates during the 2016-17 academic year:

Minor	2015-16
Chemistry	429
History	199
Spanish for the professions	150
Medical anthropology	100
Hispanic studies	89
Entrepreneurship (Economics)	86
Biology	86
Music	82
Social and economic justice	80
Philosophy, politics, and economics	70

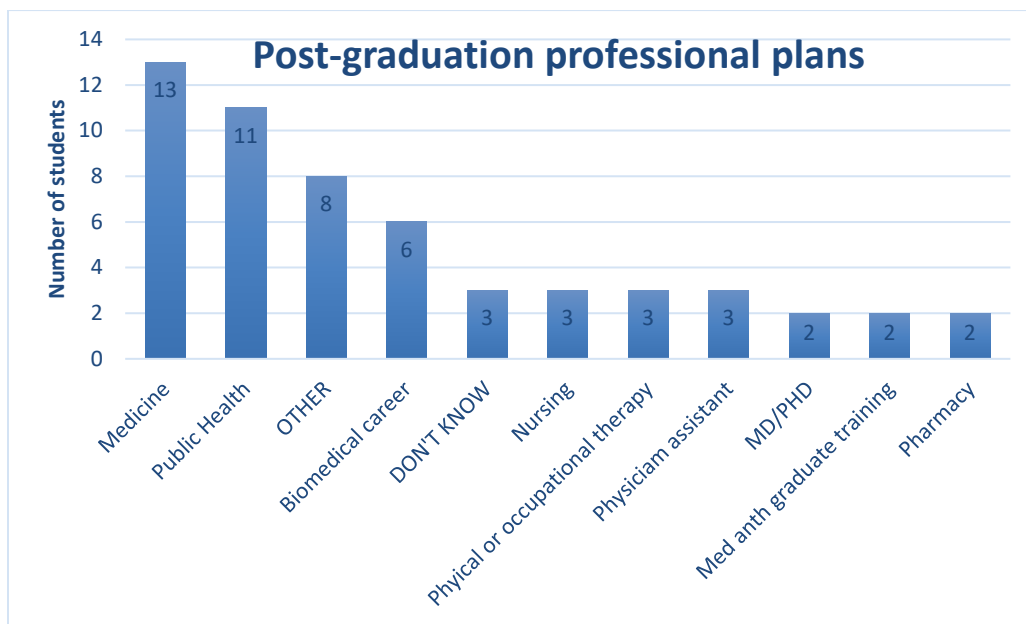
Minor	2016-17
Chemistry	442
History	183
Spanish for the professions	177
Entrepreneurship (Economics)	133
Biology	123
Medical anthropology	97

Neuroscience	92
Hispanic studies	81
Music	81
Social and economic justice	80

There are no other universities or colleges that offer a Major in Medical Anthropology in the UNC system or in the state of North Carolina.

The 2017 survey specifically aimed to gather insights regarding student interest in a potential medical anthropology major:

Question 11. What do you intend to do with your medical anthropology major? How does the minor fit in with your broader professional and/or personal plans after graduation? (n=56 responses)



Some representative student responses:

“I love my Med Anth classes the most, but I plan to go into pediatric medicine...People from all different backgrounds will walk into my clinic/office and I believe that my Med Anth classes will give me an advantage in understanding and helping from all different cultures.”

“My medical anthropology minor has helped me understand the social constructs that surround health care and

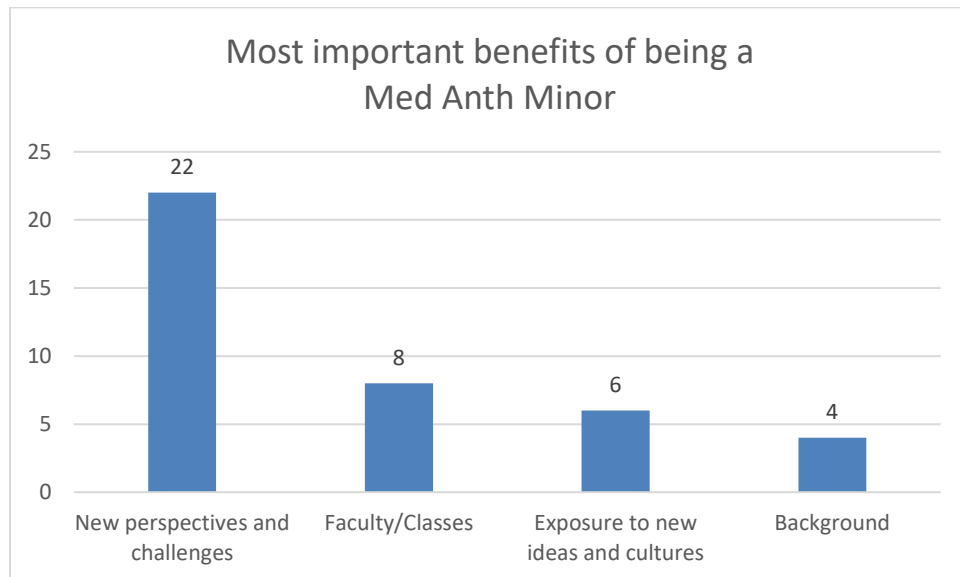
how care is given. Understanding how poverty, race and gender affects this will help me in the future because I plan to go back to school for nursing.”

“Attend pharmacy school to receive a PharmD and MPH. Studying why certain populations are affected by illnesses more than others and how we can combat these structural issues so they can receive better health care. I will apply what I have learned in my interaction with patients.”

“I think it helps support a broader cultural lens which will help in any professional career and is relevant to a health care field. I am a business major with a concentration in marketing so this offers me a different perspective from my major.”

“I hope to work for a NGO, the WHO, or another public health and culture advocacy organization to work domestically and abroad. I am wanting to do research in Latin American countries and then move on to the rest of the world. I hope to use ethnographic skills to publish works, much like the books that inspired me.”

Question 13. What do you consider the most important benefits of being a medical anthropology minor? (n=40)



Some illustrative quotes:

"It's an area of study that I would major in as it houses the subjects that I am passionate about. It offers exactly what I was hoping to get out of other courses."

"Really just learning that the way we go about health care in the United States is not the only, or the best, way. It is a powerful minor that is very eye opening. It has also eliminated past stereotypes about the causes of many chronic disease, such as obesity."

"I have a much better global understanding of our world I feel that I learned more in college than I had ever anticipated and a lot of it is due to my minor as well as my major in anthropology."

"The perspectives gained from various cultures and medical systems across the globe contribute to a much clearer understanding of the people around us on a day to day basis."

14. What skills or perspectives have you gained in study medical anthropology that you've found helpful in other courses? That you've found (or expect to find) helpful in your personal and/or professional life? (N=34 respondents, some respondents mentioned more than one skill/perspective)

Skill/perspective	Times Mentioned	Quote
Thinking in broader terms	5	"The minor's focus on looking at broader and more distal determinants of health is helpful for me a pre-med student because it challenges me to better understand how best to approach medical problems."
Understanding difference	7	"Understanding other cultures and realizing that not every culture is the same as mine."
Introduced different perspectives	7	"Medical anthropology opened up my eyes to different perspectives around the world. The dominant methods seen in Western cultures are not the only ways of going about solving issues around the world."
Critical thinking	6	"Again, emphasis on a critical response- not only helpful in academia but also helpful when looking to translate knowledge into effective solutions."
Challenging preconceptions	5	"I have been able to let go of many preconceived notions and analyze new situations as they are in their context."

The following peer institutions offer majors in medical anthropology:

Case Western Reserve University: Major in Medical Anthropology

University of Washington: Major in Medical Anthropology and Global Health

Societal Demand: *(Provide evidence of societal demand and employability of graduates from each of the following source types. Maximum length 1,000 words)*

The following career paths, which all enjoy high societal demand, are common among medical anthropology minors and will be pursued by students who complete the Medical Anthropology Major. In the descriptions below, we briefly mention these careers and highlight how in-depth study of Medical Anthropology will provide students with the capacities, skills, and knowledge these careers require. We also present evidence that education in medical anthropology is valued by employers and organizations involved in these careers.

Medicine (e.g., premed preparation for Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Infectious Diseases, etc.): Medical school admissions increasingly recognize that social sciences students are well qualified for and bring distinctive contributions to professional study in medicine. The newest revision of the MCAT exam for admission to medical school includes a section on social and behavioral science that examines many of the themes addressed by medical anthropology.ⁱ Students of medical anthropology gain important perspectives on the cultural dimensions of health and illness and the practice of medicine as an institution, all of which affect clinical care. Students of medical anthropology are prepared for recognizing the biocultural characteristics of disease.

Dentistry, Osteopathic, Chiropractic, and Integrative Medicine: Medical Anthropology coursework examines a wide range of health care occupations as they developed historically and in different social contexts. Students learn comparative cultural perspectives on the body and illness etiology, and the impacts of ecological and environmental impacts on disease occurrence and distribution. Medical Anthropology training thus conceptually opens students to a variety of clinical approaches to medicine and research.

Global Health (e.g., field consultants, organization development specialists, program implementation and evaluation, humanitarian relief-support technicians): International efforts to improve global health offer a wide range of career opportunities and require skills that extend beyond front-line medical support. The skills in demand include cultural understandings, the ability to work with communities in diverse contexts and facilities, with a wide range of local and international institutions and actors, skills at the core of medical anthropology. Evidence that the knowledge and skills of medical anthropology is highly valued by Global Health experts is presented in an accompanying letter of support we received from Dr. Kate MacQueen, Senior Social Scientist in Global Health Research at FHI 360 and Developmental Core Director at UNC's Center for AIDS Research. Dr. MacQueen writes: "Over the years I have been in the position to supervise, mentor, and hire many young research assistants and associates. We often end up hiring MPH graduates who have had some training in qualitative methods because that's the "best" mix of health-focused content and methodological flexibility we can find. But in my experience, it's been the people with some medical anthropology background who are the stars.

They tend to shine because they bring a unique combination of health knowledge and methodological flexibility together with a firm grasp of social complexity and appreciation for cultural diversity.”

Public Health (e.g., education and prevention specialists, epidemiologists, study coordinators, nutritionists, disease ecologists, public health information officers): Training in medical anthropology directly links to some of the primary issues in public health while teaching students critical thinking and problem solving skills required to be successful in this fields shaped by cultural diversity, whether in the US or international settings.

Allied Health Care and Health & Human Services (e.g., nursing, midwifery, physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, health administration, social work, counseling, mental health services): Medical anthropology introduces students to the biocultural character of disease while also involving direct work with diverse communities. Medical anthropology thus teaches students communication skills and organizational analysis essential for addressing critical human needs. These skills are essential to clinical and administrative fields across the health and human services.

Graduate Study (e.g., anthropology, psychology, sociology, social work, public health, epidemiology, medicine, law, business): Because medical anthropology is a broad and dynamic field that encapsulates a wide range of qualitative and quantitative methods, it offers foundational training that can serve as the stepping stone for graduate study and professional work in a wide range of disciplines, such as law, business, the arts, and medicine.

For Doctoral Programs Only:

Describe the following (maximum length 2,000 words):

- The research and scholarly infrastructure in place (including faculty) to support the proposed program.
- Method of financing the proposed new program (including extramural research funding and other sources) and indicate the extent to which additional state funding may be required.
- State the number, amount, and source of proposed graduate student stipends and related tuition benefits that will be required to initiate the program.

Contact: (List the names, titles, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of the person(s) responsible for planning the proposed program.)

Position Title	Name	E-mail Address	Telephone
Associate Professor	Michele Rivkin-Fish	mrfish@unc.edu	919-370-0054
Associate Professor	Amanda Thompson	althomps@email.unc.edu	919-843-2060

This Letter of Intent to Plan a New Program has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate campus authorities.

Position Title	Signature	Date
Provost		
Provost (Joint Partner Campus)		

ⁱⁱ The American Association of Medical Colleges describes the social and behavioral component of the MCAT as ensuring medical students are “able to learn about the ways in which cognitive and perceptual processes influence... understanding of health and illness; about how behavior can either support health or increase risk for disease; about how to communicate and collaborate with patients and other members of the health care team; about the ways in which patients’ social and demographic backgrounds influence their perceptions of health and disease, the health care team, and therapeutic interventions; and about the ways in which social and economic factors can affect access to care and the probability of maintaining health and recovering from disease.” <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/whats-mcat-exam/#psbb>



April 10, 2018

Professor Patricia McAnany, Chair
Department of Anthropology
301 Alumni Building
Campus Box 3115
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3115

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

CARRINGTON HALL
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CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-7460
T 919.966.3731
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<http://nursing.unc.edu>

Dear Professor McAnany:

I was pleased to learn about plans to establish a new undergraduate major in medical anthropology at Carolina. As we discussed, the major is designed to ensure a rigorous, multi-disciplinary education with extensive opportunities for students to pursue their individual interests within this diverse field. Medical anthropology contributes to the burgeoning focus on health and society at our university, incorporating methods and theories from both the natural sciences and humanities. The major will be flexible enough to be fulfilled by students with demanding pre-health professional courses of study, and will complement coursework in related fields such as Public Health and Medicine, Literature, and Culture.

For the proposed medical anthropology major, I understand that students are required to complete **five** (3 credit) elective courses, of which two may be from outside the medical anthropology curriculum. These courses may be either from within Anthropology or other health-related studies, and may include coursework from departments of Biology, Nutrition, Public Health, English, Psychology, Neuroscience, Geography, Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies, and more. Our program would welcome having students pursuing the major in medical anthropology to enroll in our courses, such as:

- 609 Health Care in the Global Context
- 611 Supporting the Childbearing Family
- 685 Care of the Dying and Bereaved Throughout the Life Span

for their electives. We view the multi-disciplinary approach and flexibility of the proposed medical anthropology major as offering excellent training for future graduate study in numerous careers related to the research in natural and social sciences, in clinical health care, social service arenas, and the arts.

In closing, I am pleased to support the proposal of this new medical anthropology major. Please let me know if I can help ensure its approval in any additional ways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nena Peragallo Montano".

Nena Peragallo Montano, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean & Professor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret C. Wilmoth".

Margaret C. Wilmoth, PhD, MSS, RN, FAAN
Professor
Major General, US Army (Retired)
Executive Dean/Associate Dean, Academic Affairs



UNC
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL MEDICINE

MACNIDER HALL
CAMPUS BOX 7240
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-7240

T 919.962.1136
F 919.966.7499

April 16, 2018

Dr. Patricia McAnany, Kenan Eminent Professor and Chair
Department of Anthropology

Dear Professor McAnany:

I was pleased to learn about plans to establish a new undergraduate major in medical anthropology at Carolina. The major will fill a critical need at UNC by providing students with a rigorous, multi-disciplinary education and extensive opportunities for students to pursue their individual interests within this diverse field. Medical anthropology contributes to the burgeoning focus on health and society at our university, incorporating methods and theories from both the natural sciences and humanities. The major will be flexible enough to be fulfilled by students with demanding pre-health professional courses of study, and will complement coursework in related fields such as Public Health and Literature, Medicine, and Culture.

For the proposed major, I understand that students are required to complete five 3-credit elective courses, of which two may be from outside the medical anthropology curriculum. Our program would welcome having students who have completed the major in medical anthropology join the School of Medicine. We view the multi-disciplinary approach and flexibility of the proposed medical anthropology major as offering excellent training for future graduate study in numerous careers related to medicine, including both clinical health care and medical research.

In closing, I am pleased to support the proposal of this new medical anthropology major. Please let me know if I can help ensure its approval in any additional ways.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Oberlander, PhD
Professor and Chair of Social Medicine, School of Medicine
Professor of Health Policy & Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

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<http://english.unc.edu>

23 February 2018

Patricia McAnany, Chair
Department of Anthropology
[via email]

Dear Professor McAnany:

I was pleased to learn about plans to establish a new undergraduate major in medical anthropology at Carolina. Michele Rivkin-Fish has explained that the major is designed to ensure a rigorous, multi-disciplinary education with extensive opportunities for students to pursue their individual interests within this diverse field. This is good news: medical anthropology contributes to the burgeoning focus on health and society at our university, incorporating methods and theories from both the natural sciences and humanities. The new major will be flexible enough to be fulfilled by students with demanding pre-health professional courses of study, and will complement coursework in related fields such as Public Health, the Science, Medicine, and Literature major concentration in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, and the Medicine, Literature, and Culture minor (a program administered by Honors Carolina with a departmental home in the Department of English and Comparative Literature).

For the proposed medical anthropology major, I understand that students are required to complete a total of nine courses, five of which may be 3-credit elective courses, of which two may be from outside the medical anthropology curriculum. These courses may be either from within Anthropology or other health-related studies, and may include coursework from departments of Biology, Nutrition, Public Health, English, Psychology, Neuroscience, Geography, Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies, and more. We in ECL would welcome having students pursuing the major in medical anthropology to enroll in our courses, such as Literature, Medicine, and Culture (ENGL 268), Science & Literature (ENGL 266), and Research Seminar in Health Humanities (ENGL 695) for their electives. We view the multi-disciplinary approach and flexibility of the proposed medical anthropology major as offering excellent training for future graduate study in numerous careers related to the research in natural and social sciences, in clinical health care, social service arenas, and the arts.

In closing, I am pleased to support the proposal of this new medical anthropology major. Please let me know if I can help ensure its approval in any additional ways.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane F. Thrailkill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jane" and last name "Thrailkill" being more prominent than the middle initial "F.".

Jane F. Thrailkill

Bank of America Honors Distinguished Term Associate Professor

Adviser, Literature, Medicine, and Culture minor & MA concentration

Co-Director, HHIVE (Health and Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Venue for Exploration)

Cc:

Mary Floyd-Wilson, Chair English and Comparative Literature

Ritchie Kendall, Associate Director Honors Carolina

Michele Rivkin-Fish, Associate Professor Anthropology

Patricia A. McAnany, PhD
Chair, Department of Anthropology
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

April 6, 2018

Dear Dr. McAnany,

As an anthropologist who has devoted more than 25 years to public health research, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Medical Anthropology major being proposed by the Department of Anthropology at UNC Chapel Hill. My Anthropology graduate training was supervised by one of your own outstanding faculty, Dr. Paul Leslie, when he was faculty at Binghamton University. At that time, Medical Anthropology was still relatively young and not recognized as a core field within the broader discipline. But as my own professional career developed, it became clear to me that this was a field positioned to make important contributions both within and beyond academia.

In 1991, I was accepted into a post-doctoral program jointly sponsored by Emory University School of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to bring the much-needed perspectives of social and behavioral scientists into work on the AIDS epidemic. As an anthropologist, my training was welcomed and embraced by CDC colleagues, where I continued to work for 10 years. During that time and since, I have witnessed firsthand the critical contributions of Medical Anthropologists for understanding the social drivers of the epidemic domestically and internationally, and their contributions to the development of effective interventions.

In 2001, I left CDC to join FHI 360 here in the Research Triangle. In my role as senior social scientist I continue to lead health-related research with a primary focus on HIV. Over the years I have been in the position to supervise, mentor, and hire many young research assistants and associates. We often end up hiring MPH graduates who have had some training in qualitative methods because that's the "best" mix of health-focused content and methodological flexibility we can find. But in my experience, it's been the people with some medical anthropology background who are the stars. They tend to shine because they bring a unique combination of health knowledge and methodological flexibility together with a firm grasp of social complexity and appreciation for cultural diversity.

To give just one example of the kind of success story a Medical Anthropology major can envision, about 15 years ago I hired a young graduate, Ms. Emily Namey, who had a BA and MA in Anthropology from Northern Arizona University. Neither of her degrees were

specifically Medical Anthropology, though her focus in elective coursework was. When I told her about your proposed new major she told me “I ***would have*** selected a med anth major if one had existed.” Today, she is deputy director for our Behavioral, Epidemiological and Clinical Sciences department, directly supervising a half-dozen or so research associates and leading her own amazing projects. On the side, she has co-authored several qualitative research methods text books with both me and another FHI 360 anthropologist, Dr. Greg Guest. If this is the career track for someone who basically cobbled together a program in Medical Anthropology, it speaks very well for what others can do with the support of a well thought out program.

I wish you all the best in establishing this new major in the Department, and I look forward to witnessing the accomplishments of your future Medical Anthropology graduates.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. MacQueen, PhD, MPH
Senior Social Scientist, Global Health Research, FHI 360
Developmental Core Director, UNC Center for AIDS Research



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April 24, 2018

Patricia McAnany, Chair
Department of Anthropology
UNC-CH

Dear Professor McAnany:

I was pleased to learn about the plans to establish a new undergraduate major in medical anthropology at Carolina. As you may know, I am a medical anthropologist with a long career in global public health, so this makes me particularly enthusiastic.

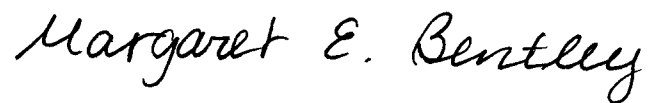
In discussing this potential major with my colleague Dr. Amanda Thompson, I understand that it is designed to ensure a rigorous, multi-disciplinary education with extensive opportunities for students to pursue their individual interests within this diverse field. Medical anthropology contributes to the burgeoning focus on health and society at our university, incorporating methods and theories from both the natural sciences and humanities. The major will be flexible enough to be fulfilled by students with demanding pre-health professional courses of study, and will complement coursework in related fields such as Public Health and Medicine, Literature, and Culture.

For the proposed medical anthropology major, I understand that students are required to complete **five** (3 credit) elective courses, of which two may be from outside the medical anthropology curriculum. These courses may be either from within Anthropology or other health-related studies, and may include coursework from departments of Biology, Nutrition, Public Health, English, Psychology, Neuroscience, Geography, Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies, and more. Our program would welcome having students pursuing the major in medical anthropology to enroll in our courses for their electives. The Gillings School of

Global Public Health has seven departments, four of which have undergraduate degree programs (Biostatistics, Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Nutrition, and Health Policy and Management). Many courses would align with a major in medical anthropology, and I would be pleased to work with the organizers and then students as they choose electives. We view the multi-disciplinary approach and flexibility of the proposed medical anthropology major as offering excellent training for future graduate study in numerous careers related to the research in natural and social sciences, in clinical health care, social service arenas, and the arts.

In closing, I am pleased to support the proposal of this new medical anthropology major. Please let me know if I can help ensure its approval in any additional ways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret E. Bentley". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Margaret Bentley, PhD
Carla Smith Chamblee Distinguished Professor of Global Nutrition
Associate Dean for Global Health
Associate Director, Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases
Adjunct Professor, Anthropology



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Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3220
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March 30, 2018

Patricia McAnany, Chair
Department of Anthropology

Dear Professor McAnany:

I was pleased to learn about plans to establish a new undergraduate major in medical anthropology at Carolina. I understand that the major is designed to ensure a rigorous, multi-disciplinary education with extensive opportunities for students to pursue their individual interests within this diverse field. Medical anthropology contributes to the burgeoning focus on health and society at our university, incorporating methods and theories from both the natural sciences and humanities. The major will be flexible enough to be fulfilled by students with demanding pre-health professional courses of study, and will complement coursework in related fields such as Public Health and Medicine, Literature, and Culture.

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In closing, I am pleased to support the proposal of this new medical anthropology major. Please let me know if I can help ensure its approval in any additional ways

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Emch".

Michael Emch
W.R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Geography and Epidemiology
Chair, Department of Geography
Fellow, Carolina Population Center



Cultural Anthropology
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Patricia McAnany, Chair
Department of Anthropology

April 13, 2018

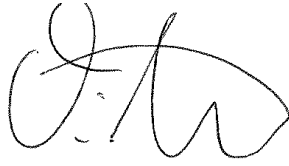
Dear Professor McAnany:

I am delighted to learn about plans to establish a new undergraduate major in medical anthropology at Carolina. The major seems wonderfully designed to ensure rigorous, multi-disciplinary education with extensive opportunities for students to pursue their individual interests within this diverse field. I am impressed that the major will be flexible enough to be fulfilled by students with demanding pre-health professional courses of study, and will complement coursework in related fields such as Public Health and Medicine, Literature, and Culture. As we both know, Medical Anthropology is a dynamic, growing field – and one in increasing demand among undergraduates. It offers wonderful preparation to the cultural challenges and socio-economic issues at stake in seeing to wellness and health. We find it is increasingly popular among pre-health students – both prospective doctors and nurses – and well as with a range of other students. Your strong faculty expertise makes a major a natural step at natural step at Carolina.

We take inspiration from your initiative as well. Here at Duke, we have a double major in Cultural Anthropology and Global Health, which has been very successful in its brief life. Our hope is to follow Carolina by establishing our own Medical Anthropology track in the major as well. In a world where, encouragingly, many young people have become concerned about health inequalities and the human right to healthy life, we are excited about the possibilities of contributing anthropology's unique perspective. We will look forward to collaborating with you in the future to further develop first-rate undergraduate education around the theme of medicine, health, and culture in a changing world.

Good luck with your exciting proposal, and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Orin Starn', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Orin Starn

Acting Chair, Professor of Cultural Anthropology and History

Addendum to Letter of Intent for the Medical Anthropology Major

Proposed Course Requirements for the Medical Anthropology Major

(no more than 3 courses total may be at the 100 level)

Introductory/Foundation Courses: (Students must take 2)

ANTH 53H: Darwin's Dangerous Idea
ANTH 66H: FYS: Saving the World?
ANTH 1XX: Introduction to Biocultural Medical Anthropology
ANTH 147: Comparative Healing Systems
ANTH 270: Living Medicine
ANTH 319: Global Health

Currently, ANTH 147, 270 and 319 serve as the main introductory courses for the Medical Anthropology Minor, being taught either every year (270, 319) or even twice a year (147). The first year seminars are taught when faculty are available to teach them. We plan to create a new introductory course, ANTH 1XX: Introduction to Biocultural Medical Anthropology, which will bring together the biological and cultural components of medical Anthropology for a unique gateway course teaching students about both subfields of our discipline. Currently, our introductory level large lecture courses focus on cultural medical anthropology only; this new course will help balance out our offerings and provide potential majors with a sense of the field's various components and how they are often brought together.

Research Methods and Experiences: (Students must take 2)

ANTH 240: Action Research
ANTH 248: Anthropology and the Public Interest
ANTH 294: Anthropological Perspectives on Society and Culture
ANTH 297: Directions in Anthropology
ANTH 298: Biological Anthropology Theory and Practice
ANTH 326: Practicing medical anthropology
ANTH 390: Special Topics in Medical Anthropology
ANTH 393: Internships in anthropology
ANTH 399: Independent study in anthropology
ANTH 414: LAB METH: Human Osteopathy
ANTH 419: Anthropological Applications of 319
ANTH 625 Ethnography and Life Stories
ANTH 675: Ethnographic Methods
ANTH 6XX: Methods in Biomedical Anthropology
ANTH 650: Reconstructing life: nutrition and disease in past populations
ANTH 693H: Senior Honors Thesis

In addition, students may petition to have courses taken outside anthropology count for credit towards their requirements, such as: statistics, biostatistics, epidemiology, linguistics, nutrition, Approved Study Abroad, etc. (a list of specific courses outside of Anthropology that will be accepted as fulfilling this requirement will be determined).

Electives (Students must take 5 total, including at least 1 from each of the following two groups (Biological/ecological and Sociocultural). No more than 2 of the 5 courses can be at the 100-level. Students may count up to 2 ANTH courses not included in this list, or up to 2 courses from outside the Department that relate to the student's area of interest in Medical Anthropology (a list of specific courses outside of Anthropology that will be accepted as fulfilling this requirement will be determined).

Biomedical and Ecological Electives

143	HUMAN EVOL & ADAPT
148	HUMAN ORIGINS
217	HUMAN BIOLOGY
315	HUMAN GENETICS
318	HUM GROWTH DEVELOP
437	EVOLUTIONARY MEDICINE
446	POVERTY INEQUALITY & HEALTH
471	MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
538	DISEASE AND DISCRIMINATION
623	DISEASE ECOLOGY
151	FOOD AND CULTURE
175	INTRO TO FOOD STUDIES: FROM SCIENCE TO SOCIETY
237	FOOD, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY
252	ARCHAEOLOGY OF FOOD

Sociocultural Electives

272	HEALING IN LITERATURE & ETHNOGRAPHY
278	WOMEN IN SCIENCE
280	ANTH OF WAR AND PEACE
320	ANTH OF DEVELOPMENT
325	EMOTIONS & SOCIETY
422	ANTHROPOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
426	MAKING MAGIC
442	HEALTH & GENDER AFTER SOCIALISM
443	CULTURES & POLITICS REPRODUCTION
445	MIGRATION AND HEALTH
470	MEDICINE & ANTHRO
473	BODY & SUBJECT
474	ANTH OF DISABILITY
585	ANTH OF SCIENCE
624	ANTHROPOLOGY & PUBLIC HEALTH
649	POLITICS OF LIFE & DEATH
AAAD 300	CULTURES OF HEALTH & HEALING IN AFRICA
AAAD 387	HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA & THE DIASPORA

ANTH 390 is a course that can serve as a capstone experience for seniors. This course number is a Special Topics in Medical Anthropology course in which a faculty member introduces students to his/her research interests in a small, seminar-like format. While the medical anthropology faculty are willing to consider adding this as a major requirement, we are concerned that at present, we do not have the staffing to ensure it will be taught every semester.