

**Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template**  
02/06/2014

Institution Submitting Request: *University of Utah School of Medicine*

Proposed Title:

Currently Approved Title: *Department of Physiology*

School or Division or Location: *School of Medicine*

Department(s) or Area(s) Location: *4110 Eccles Institute of Human Genetics*

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code<sup>1</sup> (for new programs): *00.0000*

Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): *26.0901*

Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): *MM/DD/YEAR*

Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date: *MM/DD/YEAR*

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

R401-5		R401-6	
<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>		<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>	
Section #	Item	Section #	Item
4.1.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor*	6.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
5.1.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/> New Emphasis on an Existing Degree*	6.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Unit
5.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Proficiency Not Eligible for Financial Aid		
5.1.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs		
5.1.4	<input type="checkbox"/> Name Change of Existing Programs		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Transfer		
5.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Restructure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Consolidation		
5.1.6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Discontinuation		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Suspension		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Creation		
5.1.7	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Transfer		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Consolidation		
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Center		
5.1.8	<input type="checkbox"/> New Institute		
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Bureau		
5.1.9	<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Certificate		

\*Requires "Section VI: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

**Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:**

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date: *MM/DD/YEAR*

Printed Name: *Name of CAO or Designee*

<sup>1</sup> CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

**Program Request - Abbreviated Template**  
**University of Utah School of Medicine**  
**Department of Physiology**  
**02/06/2014**

**Section I: Request**

The University of Utah School of Medicine requests permission to dissolve the Department of Physiology after the final Physiology graduate student completes his degree requirements in Spring 2015.

In October 2013 the School of Medicine Executive Committee of the College Council unanimously approved the proposal to complete the closure of the Physiology Department.

**Section II: Need**

In 2012, at the direction of Vivian Lee, School of Medicine Dean and Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, Dean Li, School of Medicine Vice Dean for Research, began working with F. Edward Dudek, PhD, Physiology Department Chair, and Physiology Department faculty to reassign department faculty to the Departments of Internal Medicine/Cardiology, Neurosurgery, and Neurobiology and Anatomy *to invigorate and strengthen neuroscience and cardiovascular research initiatives*. Dr. Dudek, an internationally respected neurophysiologist, stepped down as Chair of Physiology to assume the role of Vice Chair for Research in Neurosurgery. Dr. Li and Dr. Kenneth Spitzer, Professor of Physiology, were asked to serve as Acting Co-chairs for the department.

Appointments to Internal Medicine/Cardiology were initiated for Dr. Spitzer and Dr. Michael Sanguinetti, both senior cardiovascular physiologists. Junior faculty Drs. Sharif Taha and Matthew Wachowiak were transitioned to Neurobiology and Anatomy under the oversight of the department chair, Dr. Monica Vetter, who also leads the health sciences Neuroscience initiative.

Other faculty members have since retired: Drs. William C. Michel in June 2013 and Salvatore Fidone in January 2014. Dr. Lara Gawenis is no longer with the University. In late 2013 Dr. Spitzer stepped down from his acting co-chair role to continue his research with Internal Medicine and the Cardiovascular Research Institute, leaving only Drs. Dean Li and Mary Lucero as department faculty members. Dr. Lucero is currently on a second one-year sabbatical at the American University of the Caribbean, to be completed in December 2014. Upon Dr. Lucero's return, she will transition to another School of Medicine basic science department, most likely Neurobiology and Anatomy.

The Physiology department's research mission has been subsumed by other departments and programs, and the transition of Physiology faculty has strengthened neurosciences and cardiovascular research initiatives and related departments and programs.

In addition, School of Medicine teaching responsibilities have been distributed across other basic science departments. The final two graduate students in the Department of Physiology are completing their PhD requirements in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

### **Section III: Institutional Impact**

**Impact on Faculty:** As described above, departmental faculty have been transitioned successfully to other departments, retired or left the University. Only Dr. Lucero remains in the department, and is in a second one-year sabbatical that will end in December 2014. Upon Dr. Lucero's return, she will transition to another School of Medicine basic science department, potentially Neurobiology and Anatomy.

**Teaching Responsibilities:** The teaching responsibilities of the Physiology Department have been successfully distributed to other School of Medicine departments.

**Impact on Graduate Students:** There are two graduate students completing their Physiology PhD requirements. One is expected to be awarded her degree in March 2014; the final student is expected to receive his degree in the Spring of 2015. These students will have continued support from their mentors and the department program coordinator (Vicki Skelton) through program completion.

**Impact on Staff:** Physiology staff members have transitioned to other health sciences departments over the past two years; none were terminated. Vicki Skelton is the final part-time administrative staff member and she assists Dean Li with department administrative issues. Vicki will transition to the Department of Neurosurgery in FY2015, but will maintain a small effort assignment with Physiology until the students graduate and the program is dissolved.

#### **Impact on Existing Administrative Structures**

No untoward effects on faculty, staff, or students are anticipated with closure of the department. The research programs in the departments where faculty were reassigned have been strengthened. There is no expected negative impact on existing administrative structures in the School of Medicine departments.


### **Section IV: Finances**


No negative budgetary impact is expected; rather, the expectation is that the realignment of Physiology Department faculty in other departments has the potential to increase competitiveness for grant funding.



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Vivian Lee, MD, PhD, MBA  
Senior Vice President for Health Sciences  
Dean, School of Medicine  
CEO, University of Utah Health Care 

**FROM:** Dean Y. Li, MD, PhD  
Acting Chair, Department of Physiology  
Associate Vice President for Research and Chief Scientific Officer,  
Health Sciences  
Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine 

**DATE:** January 27, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Closeout of the School of Medicine Department of Physiology, including Graduate Program, for Academic Reasons

In accordance with University of Utah Policy 6-313, I request permission to close the Department of Physiology in the School of Medicine, including the Physiology graduate program, when the final graduate student has received his degree (expected to be Spring 2015).

**Impact on Faculty:** Under your direction, in 2012 I began working with Ed Dudek, Department Chair, and Physiology Department faculty on reassignment to the Departments of Internal Medicine/Cardiology, Neurosurgery, and Neurobiology and Anatomy in order to invigorate and strengthen neuroscience and cardiovascular research initiatives. Dr. Dudek, an internationally respected neurophysiologist, stepped down as Chair of Physiology to assume the role of Vice Chair for Research in Neurosurgery and appointments to Internal Medicine/Cardiology were initiated for Ken Spitzer and Mike Sanguinetti, both senior cardiovascular physiologists. Junior faculty Sharif Taha and Matt Wachowiak were transitioned to Neurobiology and Anatomy under the oversight of Monica Vetter, who, as you know, leads the health sciences Neuroscience initiative.

William C. Michel and Sal Fidone have retired. Lara Gawenis no longer works at the University. **Mary Lucero and I are now the only faculty members in the department, and Mary is currently in a second one-year sabbatical at the American University of the Caribbean, to be completed in December 2014.** Upon Dr. Lucero's return, she will transition to another School of Medicine basic science department, most likely Neurobiology and Anatomy.

Vivian Lee, MD, PhD, MBA  
Re: Closeout of Physiology Department  
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The transition of Physiology faculty has been a success, in terms of strengthening neuroscience and cardiovascular research initiatives and the related departments and programs.

**Teaching Responsibilities:** The teaching responsibilities of the Physiology Department have been successfully distributed to other School of Medicine departments.

**Impact on Graduate Students:** There are two graduate students completing their Physiology PhD requirements. One is expected to be awarded her degree in March 2014; the final student is expected to receive his degree in the Spring of 2015.

**Impact on Staff:** Physiology staff members have transitioned to other health sciences departments over the past two years; none were terminated. Vicki Skelton is the final part-time administrative staff member. She assists me and Chris LaSalle with department administrative issues, and we plan to fully transition her responsibilities and payroll to the Department of Neurosurgery in FY2015.

**Reasons for Recommending Department/Program Closure:** Physiology Department investigators, save for Dr. Lucero, who is currently on sabbatical through December 2014, have either been integrated into other department research structures, left the University, or retired from the University over the past two years. The department's research mission has been subsumed into other departments and programs, and there is a plan for transitioning Dr. Lucero to another department on her return to the University.

In addition, School of Medicine teaching responsibilities have been disbursed across other basic science departments, and two final graduate students are completing their PhD requirements. It is thus reasonable to plan closeout of the department and graduate program.

**Consequences of Closure:** No untoward effects on faculty, staff, or students are anticipated. The research programs in the departments where faculty were reassigned have been strengthened.

**Timeline for Department/Program Closure:** Permission is requested to close the department and program after the final PhD student completes his degree—expected to be Spring 2015.



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Graduate Council  
Academic Senate Executive Committee  
Academic Senate

**FROM:** Vivian S. Lee, MD, PhD, MBA  
Dean, School of Medicine  
Senior Vice President for Health Sciences  
CEO, University of Utah Health Care

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'V. Lee', located to the right of the 'FROM' field.

Dean Y. Li, MD, PhD  
Associate Vice President for Research and Chief Scientific Officer, Health  
Sciences  
Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Y. Li', located to the right of the text for Dean Y. Li.

**DATE:** February 10, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Proposal to Establish a new School of Medicine Department of Population Health Sciences and to Discontinue the Department of Physiology in 2015

It is with great pleasure that we present two proposals for your consideration: the first to establish a School of Medicine Department of Population Health Sciences (PHS) and the second to discontinue the School of Medicine Department of Physiology after the final Physiology graduate student completes his degree requirements in Spring 2015. These two actions are proposed separately, but are presented together because they are part of a health sciences center strategic realignment in our clinical, research and education missions. The proposed changes position the University of Utah to lead the nation in health care transformation both academically and operationally.

The **Department of Population Health Sciences** will provide a durable basic science departmental infrastructure for faculty whose research focus is on health care delivery and broad-based *patient* populations; it will provide support, expertise and mentorship for physicians and investigators across *all* departments who wish to pursue research interests and questions from their current academic homes; and, finally, it will advance the methodological bases for improving the care of patient populations and health care delivery.

As a major academic health sciences center, we believe we have a unique and timely opportunity to position Utah at the forefront of health care transformation. The creation

Re: Proposal to Establish Department of Population Health Sciences  
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of this new department, which will extend existing population health and health systems research expertise at the University and build further collaborations across the campus, will be key to achieving this goal.

An enormous amount of creative work has gone into planning this new department. With the guidance of a large number of stakeholders, and the overriding support of the School of Medicine faculty, we believe we are proposing a structure that balances the need for departmental autonomy with integration and collaboration across departments and programs, and shared ownership of investigative processes. We are pleased to present this proposal for your consideration.

Over the past two years, the School of Medicine **Department of Physiology** has been reorganized in the service of strategic issues, specifically to strengthen neuroscience and cardiovascular research initiatives and to support the evolution of physiology in each of the School of Medicine basic science departments. Only the Acting Chair and one faculty member remain in the department, with plans for transition to another department of that faculty member; and two final graduate students are completing degree requirements. Permission to dissolve this department when the final graduate student meets his degree requirements will allow us to complete this strategic reorganization.

Thank you for your review of these proposals.