



February 4, 2009

Phyllis A. Guze, M.D.
School of Medicine Planning Office
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521

Dear Dr. Guze:

Riverside Community Hospital strongly supports the medical school initiative at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). Inland Southern California, one of the most rapidly growing regions in the state, is facing a physician shortage of crisis proportion. The number of practicing physicians per 100,000 persons in the region is little more than half that of the statewide average and, by 2015, the doctor shortfall could be as high as 53 percent. The region trails much of the state in several key health indicators, such as high incidence of coronary heart disease and diabetes, and in infant mortality.

As the regional medical center for the Inland Empire, Riverside Community Hospital is dedicated to providing quality healthcare to all of the citizens in this area. We envision a partnership with the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine which will provide the physicians we desperately need, bring growth to the area, create new industries and jobs, and most importantly, improve the healthcare of those we are committed to serve. We pledge our support to achieve this goal for our community.

UCR's innovative vision for the medical school -- focused squarely on regional healthcare needs and building on its existing highly praised medical education program -- has been approved by the University of California Board of Regents. A public investment is now needed to launch the medical school so that we can begin to confront the physician shortage and thereby expand access to healthcare for our currently underserved population. We call upon the State of California to restore funding for the UCR School of Medicine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Herbert Metsch, M.D.'.

Herbert Metsch, MD
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
of Riverside Community Hospital

A Proclamation by the Board of Directors of Riverside Community Hospital:

WHEREAS, the University of California, Riverside has world-class expertise with more than 100 faculty members conducting research in health-related fields; and

WHEREAS, the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine would partner with regional hospitals and clinics for its clinical programs; and

WHEREAS, the area served by the University of California, Riverside has a physician shortage especially in the areas of primary care and surgical specialties; and

WHEREAS, this is the first medical school to be built in the University of California system in over 40 years and will be built to include the newest technological innovations, it will encourage high-tech start-up companies and attract others to the region creating valuable jobs; and

WHEREAS, the presence of a School of Medicine would create a new knowledge of medicine, which translates to improved health care; and

WHEREAS, the School of Medicine will be located in the Inland Empire and will serve one of the fastest growing areas in the nation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Riverside Community Hospital as follows:

That the Board of Directors of Riverside Community Hospital commit to supporting the efforts of the University of California, Riverside for a School of Medicine; and

That, we urge local and state legislators to support the efforts of University of California, Riverside for a School of Medicine; and

That the funding be restored by the state of California for the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the board:

Herbert Mitchel, M.D.

this 4th day of February 2009

*Chairman of the Board of Directors
Riverside Community Hospital*