

# UCONN HEALTH

Biennial FY16 and FY17

Budget Options

Increase to UCH Medical and Dental School Enrollment by 30 percent

Appropriation Request:

	Class Size Expansion (a component of Bioscience CT)	Pediatrics Education Funding to CCMC (to support class size expansion)	Total Request
FY2016	\$2,482,180	\$700,000	\$3,182,180
FY2017	\$5,136,934	\$700,000	\$5,836,934

Assumptions:

	School of Medicine	School of Dental Medicine
Student enrollment increase over 4 years	100	48
Tuition and Fees	\$37,464	\$34,935
Cost per Student	\$108,976	\$92,800

Student increase by Fiscal Year:

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
School of Medicine	25	50	75	100
School of Dental Medicine	12	24	36	48

Justification:

**Academic Expansion**

Meeting the Needs of Connecticut's Future

One of the key goals of the Bioscience Connecticut initiative is to attract more graduates to practice primary care medicine and dentistry in Connecticut thus addressing primary care shortages across the state. An adequate supply of primary care providers is essential for better access to care and to meet the increasing demand of Connecticut citizens for health care services. The rate of new providers coming to CT will not keep pace with the state's growing healthcare needs. To help solve this shortage, UConn Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine will increase enrollment by 30 percent and retain more physicians and dentists to practice in the state. The Health Center will add classrooms, learning technologies and lab space to meet the needs of the growing number of students.

In FY2015, the School of Medicine increased the size of its first year class from 90 to 98 students. In FY2017, the entering class will grow to 110 students. The School of Dental Medicine expansion plans begin in FY2016.

The requested funding will support more scholarship funding, enhanced teaching tools and technologies such as a virtual cadaver lab, additional faculty for small group learning, support staff and advisors.

### **Pediatrics Education (CCMC)**

#### **Support for Increased Class Size:**

Schools of Medicine must receive authorization from the LCME, their accrediting body, to increase class size. The LCME makes a determination based on the resources available to support any increase. The documentation that UConn submitted to the LCME for increased class size in December 2012 identified limited opportunities for expanding training in inpatient pediatrics but made the case for a greater focus on outpatient care given the national trend of care moving more to an outpatient setting. UConn also planned to reconfigure outpatient clinical experiences in pediatrics and increase the number of pediatric sites to accommodate an increased class size. The UConn School of Medicine partners with many community collaborators to provide outpatient clinical experiences for medical students, including in pediatrics. The LCME approved UConn's class size expansion based on these plans with some reservations about the ability to provide adequate training in pediatrics.

Since that approval, the number of collaborators offering a pediatric training site has decreased. Pediatricians and practices associated with some of our long-standing partners ( St. Francis, the Hospital of Central Connecticut, Community Health Center in New Britain and Hebron) have reduced the number of or declined to take any students. Pressures on physicians to increase efficiencies and see more patients make training medical students financially challenging. We therefore rely much more heavily on Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC), the dominant provider of health care services for pediatric patients, for placement of UConn medical students. Last year CCMC trained 18 medical students; this year they will take 28; future years will require at least 48 students be placed at CCMC as a result of the growing class size. Taking on this many students is financially untenable for CCMC.

The School of Medicine currently pays CCMC a teaching stipend of \$800,000 to support medical student training. This amount has remained unchanged for many years, despite increasing costs (salaries, etc.) and growing demands on teaching faculty. CCMC is committed to the teaching mission and has the capacity to accommodate the class size increase. However, they require more funding for the extra faculty time and resources needed to support more medical students. CCMC conducted a detailed analysis of their costs, and they are requesting an additional \$700,000 annually to support the additional burden of teaching a higher percentage of current UConn medical students and increased teaching due to increased class size. UConn Health does not have the requisite funds available to meet this requested obligation. However, inadequate training in pediatrics for medical students puts our School's accreditation at risk, as well as places the expansion of class size in jeopardy.



# University of Connecticut Health Center

Operating Budget  
Farmington, Connecticut 06030-5325  
(860) 679-2701  
(860) 679-8066

October 15, 2014

Kerry Kelley  
Principal Budget Specialist  
Office of Policy and Management  
450 Capital Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms. Kelley,

Please find enclosed the Biennial FY16 and FY17 Budget Options for the Increase to UCH Medical and Dental School Enrollment by 30 percent.

If you have any questions, please call me at 860-679-3162.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Geoghegan,  
Interim Chief Financial Officer

Enclosure

Cc: John Noonan