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September 17, 2016

The President,
Working Group on Accreditation of Paediatrics Subspecialty,
Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

REF: Subspecialty training programme on Paediatric Endocrinology.

I am writing this letter of support for the subspecialty training program in pediatric endocrinology in Hong Kong. I am the program director of the pediatric endocrinology training program at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. We currently train for fellows per year and are the largest training program in pediatric endocrinology in the United States.

There is a great need for pediatric endocrinology subspecialty training in Hong Kong. Although pediatric endocrinology is being practiced by pediatricians as well as pediatric endocrinologists trained outside of Hong Kong there is no training program in Hong Kong. The ultimate goal of the proposed training program is to improve the standard of care of children with endocrine diseases.

The proposal recommends the creation of 1 training program with 3 to 4 training centers. The proposed program is a three-year full-time program intended for physicians who have completed pediatric training and passed the MRCPCH (HK). It Includes 24 months of for clinical training in endocrinology and up to 6 months of optional training in inborn errors of metabolism. The proposed clinical experience is appropriately broad within pediatric endocrinology. In order for trainees to receive this broad experience multiple training centers have been proposed. At least 6 months of overseas training as well as some outpatient experience in adult endocrinology is recommended. The research component of 3 to 6 months is proposed.

The training syllabus is comprehensive. Expectations of the training centers are high. The requirements to provide comprehensive endocrine education and exposure are compelling. Accreditation of the centers will be undertaken by the Hong Kong College of pediatricians every 5 years.

The proposal recommends setting up a subspecialty board that will set guidelines for the training program as well as accreditation to ensure a high standard of training. The proposal recommends setting up a subspecialty training program director with ample experience and accreditation. The proposed qualifications of the training program director and the subspecialty trainers set a high bar for participation.

The proposal recommends a requirement for passage of a comprehensive examination as well as attendance and presentation at international meetings and the submission of scientific papers.

In reading the proposal I am impressed by the attention to detail and diligence to address every aspect of training necessary for producing well-trained pediatric endocrinologists. In the United States pediatric endocrinology training includes one year of intensive clinical training followed by 2 years of largely research training with only 20% of the time dedicated to clinical work. This proposal exceeds the time allotted for training in the United States. The requirement for multiple training centers also exceeds the requirements in the United States. The population and catchment area represented by multiple training centers in Hong Kong is expected to allow trainees access to an adequate patient population to have a comprehensive, top-notch training program. The proposed program covers all aspects of pediatric endocrinology.

I believe that the proposed training program will provide excellent training in pediatric endocrinology and Hong Kong. I wholeheartedly support this proposal without any reservations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bassil Kublaoui". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bassil" and last name "Kublaoui" clearly distinguishable.

Bassil Kublaoui, MD PhD