



PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA DE CHILE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Catholic University of Chile is a private non profit educational institution open to students of every denomination. It has a well established reputation in the country for the quality of its teaching and for its research and extension programs. This is especially true in the field of Medicine. Admission to medical studies in the University is sought by the students who obtain the highest scores in the Prueba de Aptitud Académica (National Examination to qualify for higher education)

Perhaps the main single factor in the quality of the medical teaching is given by the high standards of the University Hospital. It has been the persistent aim of the University to reach the point where all the main branches of clinical teaching shall be housed in the Hospital. It is believed that this should enable us to introduce considerable improvements in the quality of our teaching.

The University is very much aware of the extremely important place of Child Medicine in the medical curriculum. Therefore we believe that the absence of a fully developed Pediatrics Unit in the Hospital is a very weak point in our School of Medicine. The organization of such a unit is an important goal to attain in order to provide teaching, high quality medical assistance and research work in an area of obvious social and national importance.

Working towards this end, a Unit for the New Born was established in 1978, and an Outpatient Department in 1982. The building of a 40 bed Pediatrics ward has recently been completed and we are at present in the process of looking for funds for equipment. The units already existing are associated to a Pediatrics Hospital of intermediate level and with a rural community outpatient clinic. It is felt that in this way the outlook of the students is broadened by experience under conditions different from those prevailing at teaching wards.



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It should be stressed that even this incomplete development has been instrumental in making an important contribution to child medical care in the country, through such means as publications, courses for medical graduates, training of personnel, etc.

The difficult economic circumstances prevailing in the country have of course exerted a heavy impact on a non profit private organization such as our University, and they make it imperative for us to look for additional funding sources.

The Rector (President) of the University, has been for many years Professor at the Medical School (Histology), and served at a time as its Dean. In these circumstances I am very much aware of the endeavors of Dr. Patricio Ventura-Juncá, Head of the Department of Pediatrics in his numerous trips to the USA since the year 1977.

I have been informed of the contacts established by him with the Foundation Partners of America. The aims of this Foundation of cooperating in areas with social impact and multiplicative value, as well as the requirement that the benefitted institution should make a novel contribution seem very much in accordance with the aims and endeavours of our own institution. The projects presented by Dr. Ventura-Juncá for completing a model of health care and teaching in Child Medicine, ending in the equipment of the new Pediatrics Ward in our Hospital, as well as the project for child health care in the community (municipal) outpatient clinic in Pirque, a rural area near Santiago, are fully approved by the Direction of the University, and seem to be appropriate for presentation to Partners of America.

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