

August 4, 2008

Ms. Carol G. Potter, Planner  
Medical Facilities Planning Section  
2714 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

DFS Health Planning  
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Medical Facilities  
PLANNING SECTION

Dear Ms. Potter,

This letter signifies my strong and enthusiastic support of Cary Urology's petition for an adjusted need determination for Radiation Oncology Services – Linear Accelerators. Specifically, I endorse the petition filed by Cary Urology to change the methodology to include the need for a Linear Accelerator in Service Area 20. The basis of this firm support comes from my involvement and expertise in prostate cancer research, education, and outreach in the African American community for the past several years.

As you are probably well aware, prostate cancer is the leading cancer among men, and the second leading cause of cancer mortality among men in the United States. In 2008, an estimated 186,320 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and about 28,660 men are expected to die. Incidence among African American men appears to be about 60 percent higher than the rate for white men and mortality is about 2.4 times higher than for white men. In addition, there is some evidence that prostate cancer may develop at earlier ages in African American men than in the general male population. African American men also have a higher likelihood of having more advanced stage at the time of diagnosis. ***Even more troubling is that some North Carolina counties have the highest incidence of and death from prostate cancer in the world, irrespective of race.***

Briefly, I am a Professor of Health Policy, and the Director of the Institute for Health, Social, and Community Research at Shaw University. My research interests include the examination of epidemiologic patterns of health outcomes that disproportionately affect African Americans; minority health and racial health disparities; health services; and, health policy. I have numerous scientific, peer-reviewed manuscripts in prominent journals and I have actively participated as a Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, and Co-Investigator on grant research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH): National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD), National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and, National Institute on Aging (NIA); the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

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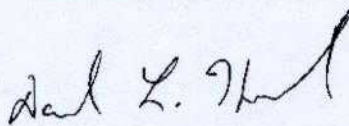
[www.ihsr.org](http://www.ihsr.org)

Services (CMS), and, AHRQ; and, the United States Department of Defense (DoD), which pertain to health services, minority health, and racial health disparities research. I have received grant awards that have totaled over \$20 million dollars.

With respect to the Institute for Health, Social, and Community Research at Shaw University, its mission is to become a national leader in the multidisciplinary empirical investigation of diverse issues that affect the health and well-being of minorities, particularly African Americans, and their families, and the communities in which they live. To this end, the IHSCR has been involved in a number of prostate cancer-related research projects with leading institutions across the nation. This research, funded by the United States Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program in conjunction with institutions such as Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, School of Medicine, and the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center as well as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health, School of Medicine, and Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, has established infrastructure support for Shaw University investigators to conduct prostate cancer research by providing training and mentorship through collaborative linkages with senior researchers at these institutions. The prostate cancer research has specifically focused in the fields of health services (outcomes) research and epidemiology and have resulted in several publications in peer-reviewed, scientific journals.

I am thrilled about the project by Cary Urology and I am pleased to support their petition for a linear accelerator in Service Area 20. I, along with others, am willing and happy to work towards the outcome research on this project. Resources such as the Institute of Health, Social, and Community Research at Shaw University and its Centers of Survey Research and Biostatistics and Data Management will be one of the many providers and supporters of this project. Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel L. Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Daniel L. Howard, Ph.D.