



May 9, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my support for the International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA). The largest medical student organization in the world, IFMSA helps to involve a new generation of physicians in the key issues of global health.

The IFMSA, which was founded over half a century ago, has grown to become an important international forum for exploration of the challenges that medical practitioners face in the 21st century. Nearly one million medical students are represented in the member organizations of IFMSA, collectively representing 84 countries across 6 continents. IFMSA helps these students to become advocates for the key health challenges facing the world today.

Nearly 8,000 students participate in the exchange programs and international research of IFMSA each year. These programs offer future physicians exposure to patients from a variety of backgrounds, enabling them to experience firsthand the challenges and rewards of providing care in settings that may differ vastly from what they are used to. Thousands more students design projects, attend conferences, and plan events related to key public health topics. By providing their student members with such opportunities, IFMSA is helping to promote a broader understanding of health at the stage when physicians can most benefit from the exposure.

The Global Health Council has collaborated with IFMSA in the fields of Health and Development, HIV/AIDS issues and Refugee Health. I personally had the pleasure to attend the International Training Congress for Medical Students, organized by the IFMSA, in August 2001. The Council regards them not only as a resourceful youth organization, but as a trustworthy partner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nils Daulaire", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Nils Daulaire, M.D., M.P.H.
President and CEO

1701 K Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-1503

Tel: (202) 833-5900
Fax: (202) 833-0075

20 Palmer Court
White River Junction, VT 05001

Tel: (802) 649-1340
Fax: (802) 649-1396

ghc@globalhealth.org
www.globalhealth.org

President and CEO
Nils Daulaire, MD, MPH

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