



Dr. Stephanie Davis
Department of Pediatrics
260 MacNider Bldg.
Campus Box 7220
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Re: Emily Vander Shaaf, MD, MPH

Dear Stephanie,

The last year has brought many challenges and changes to all our lives. While in the middle of a global pandemic, our country has been experiencing a nationwide reckoning over the mistreatment of its citizens. For some, the pandemic offered a chance to see our world from a different lens while confined in their homes. However, those challenges and changes have granted us in the School of Medicine a chance at progress, tangible change, and a path forward.

As a school, we recognize the importance of integrating social justice with anti-racism components into the curriculum to prepare our students and trainees to improve health equity and reduce health disparities. Additionally, a just learning environment where faculty are well prepared to support a diverse learner group is essential for our success. I am incredibly thankful to Emily Vander Shaaf, MD, MPH for their help on the Social Justice Task Force. Together, we ***developed 42 recommendations around three key areas that would require systemic change in order to effectively integrate social justice into the medical curriculum. Our presentation to the Education Committee showcases how our work will impact the learning environment, curriculum innovation, and faculty development.*** We are now poised to make recommendations for social justice integration into the curriculum for graduate medical education, allied health, and biological and biomedical graduate programs. This would not be possible without Emily's dedication.

Emily has shown incredible leadership, a keen interest in the plight of others, and an intense desire to make a difference in our school, our learners, our community, and ultimately, the health of all North Carolinians. I am so proud to have had the chance to work closely with Emily and wanted you to know that their efforts have been vital to the progression of the School of Medicine.

In service,

E. Nathan Thomas III, PhD
Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

CC: Emily Vander Shaaf, MD, MPH