Department of Surgery
Graduate Program
Graduate students are the representatives of your research
Statistics

typically 40-45 students in the program (8-10 turnover per year)

~50% PhD

Well represented with awards (Vanier, CIHR doctoral and MSc; as well as local)

Our students do publish well.

Common trajectory for those that finish is clinical-Residents or MD students
Recruitment

There is a good stream of 8-10 students entering program per year

CIP/Clinical representation

Encourage other disciplines of research opportunities in the Department

New FOMD PhD scholarship 2018 (3 year 12.5K matching funds)
The changing face of the graduate student

Academic career pathway is the *alternative* career.
Graduate programs provide a number of valuable “real world” skills outside of research ones.
Need to showcase and highlight what these training opportunities are.
Professional development requirements.
Off the books training--”Soft Skills”

- Project management
- Time management
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Problem solving
- Managing complex tasks
- Decision making
- Ethics
- Communication and presentation-oral and written
- Leadership
- Teamwork
FGSR professional development requirements (2016)

Two components:

Individualized Development Plan (IDP)

   Student driven with input from supervisors
   completed in first 12 months (MSc)/18 months (PhD)

8 hours of training activities to fulfil needs highlighted in IDP

   focus on how to do something rather than the experience in doing task
Changing to role of the Supervisor

Move from “supervision” to “mentorship”

Guidelines drafted by FGSR for these roles

Reality is a combination of these roles:
  - supervisor
  - mentor
  - coach
Learning Objectives

Requirement from FGSR and Advanced Education.

Define what these are for our graduate program (PhD, MSc, MSc, Surgical Education).

Competency based assessment/advancement

Establish expectations for both the student and supervisor.
Calendar requirements

All program information to be included in the University of Alberta Calendar.

Less reliance on the Graduate Program Manual

Chance to update and improve policy in the graduate program
New FGSR Guidelines:

All requirements (except for thesis) to be completed by third year

Ethics and PD training

Courses

Candidacy exam
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.0 GPA</td>
<td>Increase GPA to 3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Requirements--FGSR Standards</td>
<td>Increase stringency for English proficiencies?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposed Changes-Courses

Current

Required: Surg 530, Surg600, Statistics Course

MSc: One additional graded course (500+) (4 courses total)

PhD: three additional graded courses (500+) (Six courses total)

Proposed Options

Reduce course numbers?

Eliminate requirement of Statistics Course?

Eliminate Surg 530, Surg 600?

Add additional course- Science communication?

Methodology?
Course requirements in other programs

MSGP - MSc 1 three credit course; PhD 2 - three credit course

MMI - MSc seminar course + 2 three credit courses; PhD 1 seminar + 3 three credit

Cell Biology MSc 5 credits of graded course work; PhD 9 credits (graded).
Suggestion in alignment with other Departments/Programs

MSc (3 courses)  PhD 4 courses
Surg 530  Surg 530
Surg 600  Surg 600
1 additional course (Stats course if needed)  2 additional courses (can make Stats course required)
## Proposed Changes-Candidacy Exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open topic based on thesis research</td>
<td>Written component-PhD proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No written assessment</td>
<td>Defend the research proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge of thesis topic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rationale: Candidacy exam

Standardizes expectations for the student and examiners (Learning objectives)

Provides assessment of students writing abilities

Most PhD students transfer from MSc (research proposal has changed since enrollment)
## Proposed changes - Final thesis examinations

<table>
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<th>Current</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed defense</td>
<td>Semi-public defense (1 hour research presentation) open to the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 min presentation to examination committee</td>
<td>Seminar from external speaker (PhD defense)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Topics?