The Pulse: News From The MD Program

Campaign Preview

The Pulse

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Associate Dean's Message

Fall in Edmonton seemed short lived this year and the temperatures are reminding us that winter will soon be upon us. Of course, the change in seasons means that the fall term is moving along at a rapid pace, with courses and clerkships well underway and the regular routines of meetings and course planning and implementation are keeping the MD Program staff busy.

Recently, the second year students had the opportunity to hear the inaugurated new Associate Dean for Clinical Education in the MD Program, Dr. Pat M. Meade, who joined the Medical Program in late October.
to learn with, and from, members of the LGBTQ+ community in a learning activity that is designed to be similar to a human library experience. It was wonderful to see so many community members who were willing to volunteer their time to share their stories and experiences with the students. Thanks to Michelle Anderson (MD 2020), Derek Fehr (MD 2019), Laurie Logan, and Dr. Helly Goez for their hard work in organizing this second annual event. Many other MD Program staff members were involved in the logistics of the event and I want to acknowledge, and thank, everyone who was involved in making it happen for our students.

We are in the midst of planning our first annual Excellence in Medical Student Research event, which will be held on Monday, November 26. Further details about the event, as well as the call for posters, is included later in this newsletter, but I want to personally invite students & faculty members to attend this exciting evening that will celebrate our students' research activities and also introduce our first year students to future research opportunities they could be part of in the coming years. More information about the event will be shared with students and faculty members in the coming weeks.

It was my pleasure to attend the Academic All Canadians breakfast earlier this month on behalf of the Faculty. Celebrating student athletes from across the University, I enjoyed meeting MD Program students, as well as students from across the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry who excelled in athletics and academics in the past academic year. Pictured here are: Armin Rouhi (MD 2021), Joren Manz (MD 2021), and Jamie Braybrook (Dental Hygiene 2018). Congratulations to all our student athletes who dedicate their time to both their studies and their sports.

I also wanted to let you know about a recent problem with MedSIS that resulted in some preceptors and students receiving multiple copies of the same evaluation and assessment forms. This hasn't been a widespread problem, but it has effected many people. We apologize for the inconvenience. We have been working with MedSIS to resolve the issue and they have now told us it is fixed. Please let us know if you experience any further issues and if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Finally, as always, I welcome your feedback, suggestions, and comments about this newsletter, or anything else related to the MD Program. Please email, call, or drop by the office. Or attend one of the Conversation Circles scheduled throughout the year (see below for specific dates and times). Your ideas help to make our program better.

Until next month,

Dr. Tracey Hillier
Associate Dean, MD Program
Orange Shirt Day

Because every child matters, MD Program staff wore orange shirts on September 28. Orange Shirt Day is an “opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.”

MD Program Staffing News

We are pleased to announce the appointment of two new Assistant Deans in the MD Program.

Dr. Vijay Daniels has been appointed to the position of Assistant Dean, Assessment. Dr. Daniels is an associate professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine in the Department of Medicine. After graduating from the University of Manitoba medical school, he completed his Core Internal Medicine residency and General Internal Medicine subspecialty training at the University of Alberta. He has been on faculty at the University of Alberta since 2009. He also completed the Master of Health Professions Education program at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2013. In this program, he completed advanced coursework and a thesis focused on performance assessment.

Dr. Daniels is a proven leader in assessment. He has served as OSCE Director and Associate Program Director of Assessment for the Core Internal Medicine Residency program, and the Director of Clinical Assessment for the MD Program. In these roles, Dr. Daniels has had several significant accomplishments including reducing the time to detailed OSCE results in his residency program from several weeks to often same or next day, developing and implementing the assessment processes that led to the Core Internal Medicine Residency Program launching Competence-Based Medical Education two years ahead of most of the country, and most recently, a major revision to clerkship assessment practices in the MD program that has led to better validity across clerkships, as well as improved timeliness and amount of feedback to students.

Dr. Dan Livy has been appointed to the position of Assistant Dean, Program Evaluation. Dr. Livy is an associate professor in the Division of Anatomy in the Department of Surgery. After graduating from the University of Alberta with a PhD in Developmental Neurobiology, he completed postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Tennessee at Memphis, Tennessee and Texas A&M University before returning to the University of Alberta. Dr. Livy’s research interests focus on the development of the brain.
University of Alberta. Dr. Livy's research interests focus on the development of the brain and currently focuses on the changes in brain tissue experienced by patients with temporal lobe epilepsy, with a goal of assessing whether these changes are predictive for seizure activity or a result of it.

Dr. Livy is an award winning teacher who has a long history teaching in the MD Program. He has served on many MD Program committees, including the MD Curriculum & Program Committee, Program Evaluation Committee, and Assessment Committee. He was recently a member of the Interim Accreditation Committee that led the MD Program through a successful interim accreditation site visit through CaCMS.

We welcome both Dr. Daniels and Dr. Livy to their new positions in the MD Program.

We are pleased to announce that Sherry Toronchuk has joined the MD Program as the Year 1 Administrator, effective October 9, 2018. Sherry has experience from the Department of Medicine, where she worked in Residency education.

Jinky Perez remains in the MD Program and has assumed responsibility for year 2 of the program.

Welcome back to Lucia Popovici who is the Executive Assistant to the Associate Dean, MD Program. Lucia was supporting Dr. Hillier on a part time basis throughout the summer and has now returned to the MD Program in a full time capacity. You can contact Lucia by phone at 780-492-9523 or email at lpopovic@ualberta.ca.

Excellence in Medical Student Research

The MD Program is pleased to announce the first annual Excellence in Medical Student Research, which will take place on Monday, November 26 from 5-8pm in the Katz Atrium. CoRE will include a panel presentation about research in medicine, followed by a poster fair and reception.

This event is meant to celebrate and promote the research that medical students do throughout their 4 years in the program. It is also a chance for new students to meet research teams and learn about opportunities to be part of some of the many exciting research projects that take place throughout the Faculty.

More information about the event will be available soon. In the meantime, if you are a medical student who has done research in the last few years, we would invite you to submit your poster for inclusion in the poster fair. We encourage you to submit posters you have previously displayed at other conferences or events. To submit a poster, please complete this form. Poster submissions are due by October 31.

For faculty members and staff, please save the date for this event and encourage any of your medical student researchers to submit a poster about your research. We look forward to welcoming you to our Excellence in Medical Student Research event and sharing the research that our students have been doing.
What's happening in UME?

Here are some of the things that are happening in the MD program:

- First year students are about halfway through their first course, Foundations of Medicine & Dentistry, which wraps up at the end of November.
- Also for first year students, this month they will be matched with the Patient Immersion Experience (PIE) mentor, will be starting their Longitudinal Clinical Experience (LCE) placements, and will select their Academic Service Learning (ASL) sites. These are core aspects of their physicianship curriculum in first year. PIE and LCE continue through into second year.
- Second year students began the Reproductive Medicine & Urology (MED 522) on October 8 which runs for 7 weeks.
- Third year students started their second rotations on October 8.
- Fourth year students finished several weeks of electives at the end of August and are now beginning their year four clerkships. MSPR/CaRMS meetings between the year four students and MD Program career advisors are continuing this month.
- Applications for the 2019 admission cycle closed on October 1.

Good News from the MD Program

- Dr. Andy Holt (Department of Pharmacology & Department of Psychiatry) was awarded the Rang Prize for significant contribution to the teaching of pharmacology from the British Pharmacological Society.
- Dr. Jeremy Christensen (MD 2018) received the Medical Student Leadership Award from the College of Family Physicians of Canada.
- Shehzadali Kassam (MD 2019) received the Medical Student Scholarship from the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Upcoming Events

**Falling Through The Cracks, Greg's Story** is a 30 minute film showing the audience what Greg encountered during his fateful journey through the health system. The setting of the film is partly in his home town, and with representatives of his family and the providers he met with. It is based on the Continuity of Patient Care Study produced by the Health Quality Council of Alberta, along with other investigations and the family's personal knowledge.

It is a very high-quality film, done by excellent cast and crew including Andrew Wreggitt as the writer and who has numerous credits in the Canadian film industry and Dean Bennet who also is well known, for his directing of the Heartland television series. The Price family produced the film, with the great support of Dr. Ward Flemons providing the medical
guidance on the film, and who was the lead investigator for the HQCA report. It is the hope of the Price family that showing Greg's story will provide additional motivation and support for needed positive changes in the health system.

Mr. David Price, Greg's father, and Teri Price, Greg's sister, will present and discuss the 30-minute film from a family perspective. A leadership round-table will follow that and will include Dr. David Zygun, Dr. Mark Joffe, Dr. Francois Belanger, Dr. Owen Heisler, Dr. Shirley Schipper, Dr. Scott McLeod, Dr. Melanie Currie, and Dr. Narmin Kassam.

**When:** November 9, 2018 from 7:00-9:00am  
**Where:** Bernard Snell Hall

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**Do No Harm: Exposing the Hippocratic Hoax** is a film by two time Emmy Award winner, writer, producer, director, editor, and filmmaker Robyn Symon. Physicians are our healers, yet they have the highest rate of suicide among any profession. Medical students and families of physicians touched by suicide come out of the shadows to expose this silent epidemic in the film *Do No Harm*.

The Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association is hosting a free screening of this film on

**Tuesday, November 13, 2018 in Bernard Snell Hall, University of Alberta**  
6:00pm Reception  
7:00pm Screening & Panel Discussion

Immediately following the screening, there will be a panel discussion including:

- Randy Naiker, MD, President, Edmonton Zone Medical Staff  
- Richard Bergstrom, MD, Department of Anesthesiology  
- Tracey Hillier, MD, Associate Dean, MD Program  
- Sue Reid, MD, Department of Anesthesiology

This is a free event, but registration is required. Please register by November 5 by calling the EZMSA Office (780-735-2924) or by emailing: laurie.wear@covenanthealth.ca

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**Conversation Circles with the Associate Dean**

Dr. Tracey Hillier, Associate Dean, MD Program, will be hosting monthly Conversation Circles throughout the academic year. These informal conversations will allow small groups of faculty and students to come together to talk about the MD program.

Bring your questions (and your lunch), share your ideas, and hear about upcoming plans for the program.

Upcoming dates for Conversations with the Associate Dean are:

- November 19, 2018 from noon to 1pm  
- December 11, 2018 from noon to 1pm

Each session will be held in the UME board room (Katz 1-004) and registration will be
restricted to the first 12 people to sign up. More dates will be planned throughout the 2018-2019 academic year and will be shared via email and through the UME Newsletter.

To register for an upcoming conversation circle, please use this form.

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