The Pulse: News From The MD Program

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The Pulse

Associate Dean's Message

Happy Fall! The leaves are changing colour and the university community welcomed students back to school to kick off the 2018-2019 academic year. We were thrilled to welcome the Class of 2022 to the MD Program on August 27, when their orientation week began. I want to thank all the faculty, staff, and students who were involved in organizing such a warm welcome to our students, and all the new students in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. The week kicked off with a pancake breakfast and a drumming ceremony. Throughout the next five days, there were
ceremony. Throughout the next five days, there were opportunities for new students to explore the campus, participate in a mass Blanket Exercise (organized by the Indigenous Health Initiatives Program in partnership with Kairos), and strengthen their team building skills. Year one students also spent some time in the classroom with the start of DMED 511.

Foundations of Medicine & Dentistry.

As you will read later in this newsletter, the Indigenous Gathering Space in our building opened at the end of August and I am excited that Indigenous students from across the Faculty will have access to this space to explore their culture and identity. Thank you to the Indigenous Health Initiatives program for leading this project with the MD Program, community members and students.

The start of a new school year is always an exciting, and somewhat nerve wracking time for students. As I reminded all of our students when they started, we are here to help and provide support every step of the way. Our students benefit from a variety of programs and services, including academic support, such as the academic mentorship program (MeDMAP) and career counselling. Our Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs, Dr. Tammy McNab, is available to provide information and guidance around all of our academic support services. As well, we work closely with the Office of Advocacy and Wellness (OAW) and the Indigenous Health Initiative (IHI) Program to provide students with access to a cohesive and integrated system that could include cultural, emotional, or academic supports.

In addition to these supports available to students, I also encouraged our students to get involved in some of the many programs and activities that will help develop their awareness of diversity, equity, and social accountability. Students also have opportunities to get involved in the Medical Students' Association, to explore the intersection of arts and humanities with our Arts & Humanities in Health and Medicine program, and to participate in research opportunities (such as through STIR or a combined MD/PhD program). This year, students may also choose to participate in French DL groups or consider joining one of the two learning communities that we are piloting in 2018-2019 (stay tuned for more information about these new initiatives).

We are pleased to be searching for two new assistant dean positions: Assistant Dean, Assessment and Assistant Dean, Program Evaluation. The postings were emailed out through the office of the Vice Dean, Education and are available by sending an email to Lucia Popovici, Executive Assistant. The deadline for applications is September 21.

We will be starting our Conversation Circles for the fall, with the first session scheduled for September 21 from noon to 1pm. Other dates are listed later in this newsletter. Plan to attend one (or more) of these dates to share your ideas for the program and learn more about our plans for the year.

As always, please keep in touch with me and the MD program. My door is always open to hear your feedback or to answer questions.

Until next month,

Dr. Tracey Hillier
Associate Dean, MD Program
MD Program Staffing News

Dr. Anna Oswald has resigned her position as co-Director of Pre-Clerkship Education for the MD Program, effective September 1, 2018. Dr. Lana Bistritz will continue as Director Pre-clerkship Education for the MD Program.

Anna has made a tremendous contribution to the MD Program as course coordinator for the Musculoskeletal course for medical and dental students for 11 years from 2007-2017. She has been the Director (2015-2016) and more recently as Co-Director (2016-) of Pre-clerkship Education for the MD Program. Through this role she mentored new course coordinators and helped existing course coordinators introduce active learning strategies and a diversified approach to assessment. Anna received the University of Alberta Rutherford Award for Excellent in Undergraduate Teaching in 2016. She also received the Medical Students Association Teacher of the Year Award in 2012, 2014 and 2015; the MSA Teaching Excellence Award in 2013 and 2016; and the MSA Discovery Learning Preceptor Excellence Award in 2012.

We look forward to working with Anna in a different capacity as she furthers her work in Faculty Development through her role as the Director of Competency Based Medical Education (CBME) Implementation for the PGME office and through her considerable ongoing work with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as a CanMEDS Clinician Educator, a position she has held since 2010. We thank Dr. Oswald for her years of service in the program and wish her well in her future endeavours.

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Elizabeth Rosolowsky to the MD Program as the new course coordinator for DMED 513, Endocrinology & Metabolism. Dr. Rosolowsky is an Associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics and has been the Program director for the Training Program in Pediatric Endocrinology since 2013. Dr. Rosolowsky has taught in DMED 513 for the last two years, including creating and facilitating the team based learning session on growth. We are very pleased to have Dr. Rosolowsky taking on DMED 513 beginning this fall.

Kristine Perez, Administrator for Year 2, has resigned from her position in the MD Program office. Kristine worked in the MD Program for 11 years and we will miss her knowledge about the program and organization. Thank you for your contributions to the MD Program, Kristine! We will be posting this position soon and we will announce the new year 2 administrator in a future issue of the newsletter. In the meantime, if you have a question about Year 2, please use the following email address: ume_year2admin@ualberta.ca.

Quality Assurance Review

At the request of the Office of the Provost, and as mandated by the Campus Alberta...
Quality Council (CAQC), the MD Program will be taking part in a Quality Assurance Review in October, 2018. Some of this might seem like a duplication of effort, having just completed an Interim Accreditation Review in March. However, this is another opportunity to engage in ongoing quality improvement of the MD Program and to have conversations with outside experts about our program. All of this will be incredibly helpful leading up to our full CACMS Accreditation Review & Site Visit in 2022.

The Quality Assurance Review report will draw heavily from the data and documentation that was gathered earlier this year for our interim accreditation site visit, including the self-study documents and the data collection instruments (DCI).

The site visit will take place on Tuesday, October 16, 2018. The report from the review team will summarize the outcomes of this review and will be made available through the Office of the Provost when the process is complete.

As we move forward with our preparations for the site visit, please contact Dr. Hollis Lai, Assistant Dean, Education Quality & Accreditation (email: hollis1@ualberta.ca) with any feedback or if you have any questions about the Quality Assurance Review process.

Grand Opening of Indigenous Gathering Space

The Indigenous Health Initiatives (IHI) Program within the Division of Community Engagement celebrated the grand opening of the Indigenous Gathering Space on August 27. The Indigenous Gathering Space "will serve as a teaching, ceremony, and meeting space for community members and both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students from all the faculty's programs."

The Indigenous Gathering Space was made possible by a collaboration between the Medical Students Association and the leadership of the IHI program. Thanks to the generosity of the MSA and this partnership, Indigenous students throughout the Health Sciences now have a space to call their own!

The grand opening of this space also marked the start of the Indigenous Health Initiatives 30th anniversary year, a milestone for the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

The Indigenous Gathering Space can be found in MSB 2-02. It is the room to the left of the pedway joining ECHA with KATZ. For more information about the Indigenous Gathering Space, please contact Tibetha Kemble, Director, Indigenous Health Initiatives (email: kemble@ualberta.ca). To learn more about the Indigenous Health Initiatives Program, please visit their website.

What's happening in UME?

Here are some of the things that are happening in the MD program:
• First year students arrived on campus on August 27 for orientation and began DMED 511 (Foundations of Medicine & Dentistry) on August 30. The DMED 511 midterm exam is scheduled for Friday, October 5.
• Second year students were heavily involved in welcoming the first years to campus at the end of August, and also started their first course of year 2 that week. They are now in week 3 of MED 521 (Gastroenterology & Nutrition). Several students are participating in this course at a distance, while they participate in PNME.
• Third year students started their first clerkship rotations on August 27.
• 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 begin the week of September 10.
• A meet and greet for new academic mentors in the MedMAP program is scheduled for Thursday, September 20.
• First year students will participate in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry's White Coat Ceremony on Tuesday, September 25.

Good News from the MD Program

Congratulations to Michael Taylor, MD (2020)/MBA, who was recently awarded the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Award. Michael "plans to forge new paths in policy research for vulnerable populations and encourage passion among peers in primary care medicine. Michael currently leads the Community-Based Research division of the Edmonton Men’s Health Collective - a grassroots health care organization that prioritizes education, research, and health advocacy through public outreach initiatives. On campus, he co-leads the UAlberta Research Interest Group, which facilitates evidence-based medicine reviews/workshops and showcases research for lay audiences with a provincially sponsored annual '3-Minute Thesis’ competition for medical students (The ‘3MT-MD')." Read more about Michael and his areas of interest and research here.

Information for Students

From the Alberta Medical Association: We want to ensure that University of Alberta medical students are aware of the Emerging Leaders in Health Promotion grant program. The program is jointly sponsored by the AMA and the CMA – and its subsidiaries MD Financial Management and Joule. The deadline for this year’s application is Sunday, November 4, and students can obtain more information about the grant program here.

A reminder from Norma Maloney, Electives Coordinator in the MD Program office: Year 1 and Year 2 students are now asked to record their preclinical electives (MED 517, MED 518, and MED 527) in assess.med. Please contact Norma if you have any questions.
Assessment Updates

The 2017/18 calendar year was another big one for Assessment with our team administering around 430 exams across all four years of the program. Absences now fall under the Assessment portfolio and on average Sherry Sweeney, Assessment Specialist, is managing about 25 - 30 absence requests per day. We kicked off the 2018-2019 academic year with the first year 2 quiz for MED 521 (Gastroenterology and Nutrition). The quiz was administered on campus in Edmonton and simultaneously with 5 Pre-Clinical Networked Medical Education (PNME) rural sites with no problems. We are looking forward to another busy year working with faculty, instructors, and students.

News from the Library

Maria Tan is the new liaison librarian and main contact for the FoMD, providing research support, teaching, and consultations. She is based at the UofA's Scott Health Sciences Library.

Maria has an MLIS, an MSc in Health Promotion, and a BSc in Occupational Therapy all from the UofA. In addition to clinical OT practice in geriatric psychiatry and rehabilitation, Maria has previously worked as a content specialist for the Public Health Agency of Canada, as a health sciences librarian at the UofA, and as a medical librarian with Alberta Health Services, specializing in Cancer Care.

Please contact Maria Tan by email: maria.tan@ualberta.ca or phone: 780-248-5889

Conversation Circles with the Associate Dean

Dr. Tracey Hillier, Associate Dean, MD Program, will be hosting monthly Conversation Circles throughout 2018. 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:

- September 21, 2018 from noon to 1pm
- October 29, 2018 from noon to 1pm
- 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 2018 and will be shared via email and through the UME Newsletter.

To register for an upcoming conversation circle, please sign up on this document.

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