Education Report

Prepared by: Dr. Roger Wong, Executive Associate Dean, Education, and Ms. Jennifer Golinski, Senior Director, Education Programs and Services.  
Text in red indicates updates from the last report dated May 20, 2020.

Key Portfolio Updates

General

- To support the delivery of high-quality remote instruction, the Office of the Executive Associate Dean, Education has brought together resources to assist programs and departments in this transition – the Virtual Educational Resource Hub – for educational support services – between the Centre for Health Education Scholarship, Continuing Professional Development, EdTech, Faculty Development, the HIVE, and Woodward Library. It is in addition to the resources available to programs and departments through the UBC Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology. The EADE team is currently working with the respective groups to further refine details of how this Virtual Educational Resource Hub will operate collectively, including how programs and departments will best connect with the services available based on their needs. For immediate assistance, please feel free to reach out from.educationhub@ubc.ca. We look forward to updating you on this initiative as it progresses.

- There will be one virtual ceremony for all graduates of the Vancouver campus on June 17th. Further details can be found here.

- UBC Ceremonies has canceled in-person convocation this May and is working on virtual ceremonies and in-person celebrations when it is safe to gather large groups of people.

MD Admissions

- MD Admissions is proposing adaptations designed to account for a variety of issues and instances applicants are facing related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overarching principles on which the policies have been designed include:
  - Recognition that these are unusual and unprecedented times that are impacting applicants in ways they could not control or plan for; and
  - The integrity of the MD Admissions process must be maintained, including the need to fairly and rigorously assess candidate’s academic and non-academic potential, in a timely and cost effective manner.

- The adaptations involves one-time changes to the current application cycle, 2019-2020 and future application cycles.

UGME

- This Motion passed at UGMEC on May 25th: “Students in the Class of 2021 with missing elements or not meeting MEDD 431 competencies, be granted provisional promotion to Year 4 and complete MEDD 431 competencies during Year 4. Decisions regarding course standing (pass, incomplete, fail) and requirements for remedial time will be determined on a case-by-case basis, through existing FoM policies and SADS/RSPS/SPRB procedures.”

- Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) – Students are eligible if they have been registered/enrolled in a post-secondary degree program. CESB is meant for students who weren’t eligible for CERB, having difficulty finding employment, or income is less than $1,000 or were terminated due to COVID-19.

- Health and Safety: Donning and Doffing Training: Masks, googles, gowns and gloves need to be donned and doffed safely for the safety of patients and students. This is a workplace requirement. Nick Steel, Faculty of
Medicine Health and Safety Advisor, has proposed designing an online module for students to review prior to restarting clerkship, based on provincial guidelines from the Ministry of Health and the BCCDC. Direct observation and feedback in person could be added in as a “Direct Observation” filled out by a preceptor, resident, or an RN. The operationalization of this will be discussed site by site with the Regional Associate Deans.

- PPE Update: Conversations with senior leadership at Health Authorities indicate that there should be sufficient PPE in the community clinics for their staff and our students by July 2020. The operationalization of the distribution between the Doctors of BC and the Health Authorities hasn’t been completely worked out and there are many people and groups working on this at various levels. A Health Authority and PPE update will be a standing agenda item for the UGME COVID-19 Implementation Task Force meetings. The bottom line is that the program will not send students to clinics that do not have adequate PPE supply for their staff.

- Memo issued to Classes of 2021 and 2022 wrt registration and preparation for the return to clinical studies. Registration must be completed to continue eligibility for Government Student Loans, UBC Bursaries and Awards & Scholarships.

- For the Class of 2020, a special presentation on COVID-19 will be offered on May 28th, 6:30pm. The Presentation will be an overview of public health, emergency, internal medicine, surgery and palliative care advice on COVID for new graduates/soon to be residents.

- The Class of 2024 will be welcomed to the UBC MDUP at their distributed sites rather than all at the Vancouver Fraser site for MEDD 411. An implementation working group is being formed with broad representation and a key principles document will be developed.

- The AFMC Board has made the following decisions regarding the 2021 R-1 Match: Interviews will be in virtual format including those for local candidates. The match timeline will be:
  - The Last Day of the Application Period: February 7, 2021;
  - The File Review Period: February 8 to March 5, 2021;
  - The Virtual Interview Period: March 8 to March 28, 2021; and
  - The Second Iteration Match Day being no later than May 18, 2021.

- Dr. Cheryl Holmes and Dr. Janette McMillan are the UBC representatives on the AFMC Resident Matching Committee. The PGY-1 (CaRMS) postgraduate match dates in 2021 are proposed to be delayed, with the proposed application and match period compressed. All CaRMS interviews (both home province and out-of-province) will be conducted virtually in 2021. Please access the CaRMS COVID-19 information page for the most updated information.

- The AFMC UGME Deans are working collaboratively to develop principles for the restart of clerkship for the Class of 2021 and start of clerkship for the Class of 2022. A Student Financial COVID-specific assistance Working Group has been formed with representation from the UGME COVID-19 Task Force and Student Affairs Student Awards Committee.

- Processes are in development for surveying student need; developing an easy to fill out and easy to assess form for requests; having a nimble sub-group with clear guidelines for quick decisions; and maintaining access to the UGME COVID-19 Task Force for difficult decisions.

- The Student Affairs Awards Committee has adjudicated awards totaling $87,000, to be distributed through regular processes soon. Some concerns have been raised about dress code and behavior in virtual small group sessions. Students are reminded that the Professionalism Standards apply to all learning environments. The UGME COVID-19 Information Task Force suggested a list of articles on leadership and communication. Dr. Cheryl Holmes is working with the other AFMC UGME Associate Deans to collaboratively develop a consensus on a set of principles for determining students returning to the clinical setting, to shorten the CaRMS timeline between
match and graduation, and to advocate for a unified opening of the AFMC Electives Portal for out-of-province electives.

- The UGME Leadership is advocating for decision making to be nationally based with sensitivity that no university is advantaged or disadvantaged pertaining to curricular decisions. There needs to be special consideration and reflection around redeployment of students to clinical rotations and elective opportunities given the potential to affect equity in the selection process for the 2021 residency match and graduation.

- In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) has postponed all planned submission dates for CACMS documents until further notice. An update will be provided in due course on revised submission deadlines.

- BC COVID-19 Medical Student Response Team – is a student-led, grassroots initiative with the primary objective of empowering medical students to support BC physicians and public health authorities in their efforts against COVID-19. The program will work to endure students are able to complete their program without incurring additional tuition fees. Courses will be rescheduled with consideration of the impact on student loans.

- UGME COVID-19 Task Force – co-chaired by Dr. Cheryl Holmes and Dr. Paul Winwood – key messages on outcome of discussions can be found here; continues to meet daily; didactic sessions are online; clinical placements remain on hold for the time being; this decision will be reassessed regularly as the situation evolves and providing updates as necessary; AFMC Student Portal – suspended for visiting elective applications until further notice; ~600 students are helping with various public health initiatives (e.g., staffing 811 lines)

PGME

- PGME is trying to facilitate students being able to write the MCCQE Part 1 at a centre where they live and not where they were originally registered.

- A national working group in PGME is focusing on establishing guiding principles for reviewing CaRMS applications.

- The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada have announced (on April 27th) an update on the delivery of fall sub-specialty exams. The full statement can be found here. Out of province electives at UBC may recommence effective July 1, 2020 if there is a willingness from the program to support out of province trainees.

- Similarly, UBC PGME programs may allow existing residents to pursue out of province electives. All trainees wishing to do electives from July 1st are advised to have back-up or alternate plans, should the elective need to be cancelled.

- The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada has decided that all the 2020 spring certifying exams have been moved to the fall. All the spring certifying examinations will be written exams only.

- The 2020 spring cohort of candidates will not be required to sit an oral examination to be certified in their specialty. For more information see Royal College Examinations. The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) have announced the postponement of the spring 2020 Certification Examination in Family Medicine. For more information please see CFPC Exam Postponement.

- A number of residents have been deployed to support ICU’s (Anesthesia, Emergency medicine, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Clinical Immunology and Pain Medicine, so far). The request comes from the Health Authority to the Program Director and is for a specific period of time. A UBC Internal Medicine COVID-19 primer can be found on the FAQ page as well as links to Providence Health Care PPE demonstration videos. Residents working with COVID-19 patients – there is an update on the FAQ page with information on what precautions residents should take when working with suspected, probable or confirmed cases. Residents beginning training in July – there is an update on the FAQ page with the planned start date of July 1st for
residency. There is a PGME redeployment statement available here highlighting the principles of safety, supervision, and clinical need. This has been endorsed by Resident Doctors of BC, HEABC, and UBC. PGME, Program Directors and Health Authority leadership are the points of contact. For those residents graduating this year, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC is aware that Canadian licensing and certification examinations have been postponed.

- The College has developed an action plan in this regard. An exemption from travel restrictions has been granted by the Federal Government for Temporary Health Workers and Learners. This includes VISA Clinical Fellows, Postgraduate Trainees and Residents.
- The College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC will start to process the applications in place for those trainees to begin in July 2020. Please see the Government of Canada website here for up to date information relating to temporary workers.
- The Resident Wellness Office has launched a new On-line COVID support Group and continues to offer appointments to all residents via phone or video. Didactic sessions online where possible; at this time, no mandatory restrictions on medical residents or on postgraduate medical trainees (including clinical fellows) with regard to their participation in the triage and/or management of suspected cases of the COVID-19; medical residents and postgraduate medical trainees (including clinical fellows) are expected to follow the guidelines and recommendations provided by Public Health (that is, Medical Health Officers of the Health Authority) and the Health Authority in which they are working; all medical residents and postgraduate medical trainees (including clinical fellows) should be educated on the appropriate precautions to be utilized when the COVID-19 is suspected.

**HP Programs:**

- Health Professions programs are developing plans to return to clinical skills labs once return to education activities is permitted.
- Work has commenced on supporting instructors to move didactic sessions online in W1 term.
- Health Professions programs are planning to return to clinical placements in July.
- Health professions programs are developing plans for return to clinical placements, based on Faculty of Medicine principles.
- Midwifery, Genetic Counselling and Medical Laboratory Science will graduate classes of students as usual this term. Audiology and Speech Sciences will graduate thesis students.
- Midwifery, Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy students are involved in various volunteer activities to support health care providers and the community. A draft document on return to clinical activities is being prepared.
- Work has commenced on identifying what will be required to return to clinical skills labs, while following public health and university guidelines. Dr. Joseph Anthony, Associate Dean, Health Professions and the Department Heads and School Directors of Health Professions Programs will be meeting to identify the principles for deciding when HP programs can safely reinstate student placements.
- If placements are delayed there will be overlap in students from different years and across all health professional programs, resulting in an increase in the number of placements required simultaneously.
- Written exams will be conducted online, with proctoring in many cases. Skills exams will have to be postponed until face to face contact is once again permitted. In-classroom lectures and labs transitioned to online instruction; make up of clinical placement hours or where online delivery may be a challenge in progress
GPE

- Graduate and Postdoctoral Education Committee (GPEC) met, with another meeting scheduled in June, to discuss details for September. Groups are working with their respective programs/centres/departments/schools to see what is needed and to come up with options.

- To ensure that the impact to students and instructors is minimized, and the time course for any required changes is minimized, the Graduate and Postdoctoral Education Committee will be communicating with programs to provide guiding principles on modifications to course syllabi and grading practices. Most courses transitioned to an online format; PhD defences overseen by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Faculty Development

- Faculty Development is running three workshops in early June to help faculty and staff run their virtual courses; more than 150 people from UGME and PGME have already registered. In collaboration with Dr. Hildebrand, two workshops are being planned for faculty in PGME and health professions, to be held tentatively on June 24th. Faculty Development is also hoping to have a case-based session for program directors, academic half-day presenters and clinical teachers in July.

- All 72 CBL small groups in years 1 & 2 of MDUP transitioned to online synchronous learning using Zoom. Tutors found the transition to be largely seamless and positive. Post-session debriefs highlighted implications of the new environment related to group functioning and handling technology: Optimizing group functioning and optimizing technology use.

- Faculty Development support is being developed in close collaboration with course and Med EdTech leadership. The support is specific to the role of the faculty and the course, such as for the CBL tutors, portfolio coaches, large group lecturers and FLEX coaches.

- There are ongoing faculty development sessions and drop-in clinics – ongoing, virtual teaching debriefs scheduled or by appointment for faculty who wish to share their successes and concerns and learn through mutual experiences. Information on booking Zoom for teaching/learning sessions, instructions for joining Zoom as an instructor, tutorial videos, and MedIT’s EdTech team’s drop-in clinics for faculty to test Zoom and get instruction on how to use the tool. Continuing to provide teaching support and information for faculty roles – see link for additional information and updates.

CPD

- CPD hosted a Public Health webinar, including Dr. Bonnie Henry and Dr. David Patrick, on May 26th. There were ~3000 registrants.

- The UBC CPD team continues to monitor the needs of health care providers and provide support through webinars, CPD’s resource hub, and other programs. Unprecedented registration numbers and engagement in the evening Faculty of Medicine COVID-19 webinar series continues.

- A new COVID-19 resource hub has been launched on the UBC CPD website: https://ubccpd.ca/COVID19/resources. The response rate for the webinars held to-date in providing upskilling to physicians and other health care professionals has been very well attended – see link for additional information.

CHES

- CHES has been holding “Virtual Water Cooler’s”. The last one was held on May 19th, attended by ~60 people, including students.

- CHES will host a virtual version of the CCME for UBC on June 17th from 1:00-4:00pm. There will be two plenary sessions; ~ 20 faculty and staff have agreed to present.