The voice of academic medicine in Canada
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND PRESIDENT AND CEO

We are proud to provide our 2019-20 annual report that highlights key priorities in academic medicine including advancing medical education, research and innovation as well as initiatives supporting faculties and learners during the pandemic. This last year, our lives were changed in unfathomable ways. This forced us to shift our priorities and make important decisions to support physicians and researchers in training, faculty members and staff.

We have worked collectively and collaboratively like never before and our accomplishments would not be possible without the contributions of our committees and networks, the support of partners and stakeholders as well as dedication of our employees.

We continue to advocate for the government of Canada to make investments to develop an innovative and learning health care system. In the face of a pandemic, it became clear that the Canadian Scientific community must come together to help solve health crises and that Faculties of Medicine across the country must continue to be integral to this enterprise.

The social accountability mandate of our medical schools challenges us to ensure we meet the future health needs of Canadians by recruiting and selecting students that are reflective of the diversity of our population. The Future of Admissions in Canada Think Tank (FACTT) is tasked with supporting the AFMC in establishing principles and pursuing best practices to enhance the admission of students into Canadian medical schools. This year, they worked on the proposed strategy for enhancing admissions and developed a set of recommendations for action over the next three years.

We continue to collaborate to advance the Canadian academic medical education system. To this end, AFMC surveyed our faculties, our partners and the medical education community to map our collective progress made to date on the recommendations from the Future of Medical Education in Canada (FMEC) MD Project (2010), Postgraduate Project (2012) and CPD Project (2019). As a united community, we will carve out a clear and actionable way forward to address the gaps in our medical education system.

During these changing times, we are comforted to know that people like you are making the decisions that will ensure we continue to do everything we can for the health of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

David Anderson, MD, FRCPC, FACP
Chair, AFMC Board of Directors

Geneviève Moineau, MD, FRCPC
AFMC President and CEO
AFMC MISSION, VALUES AND STRATEGIC GOALS

GOALS VS PRIORITIES

To support CANADIAN FACULTIES OF MEDICINE and their faculty members, staff and learners.

To be a recognized national and international LEADER in educating the HEALTH WORKFORCE and a leading national advocate and knowledge resource for health education.

To be a recognized leader in academic medicine, who by working effectively with our partners, drives EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION in RESEARCH to improve health.

To ensure that ACADEMIC MEDICINE continues to be INTEGRATED throughout HEALTH SYSTEMS.

OUR MISSION

AFMC is the academic partnership of Canada’s faculties of medicine. Through our collective leadership, expertise and advocacy, we will achieve excellence in education, research and care for the health of all Canadians.

OUR VALUES

EXCELLENCE
AFMC will apply innovation, ingenuity, creativity, inquiry, discovery, and continuous quality improvement in all its endeavours.

INCLUSIVITY
AFMC embraces differences amongst people and respectfully creates value from diversity of ideas, culture and language.

COLLABORATION
AFMC views collaboration as both a process and outcome that engages different perspectives and involves partnerships between organizations, professions and individuals.
### 2019-20: A YEAR IN NUMBERS

In our faculties, 14,664 students applied to medical school. 6,138 are men and 8,526 are women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Medical Students</td>
<td>11,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which men</td>
<td>6,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And women</td>
<td>5,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Medical Trainees</td>
<td>14,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which men</td>
<td>3,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And women</td>
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**Medical Degrees Awarded:**

- 1,488 Family Medicine
- 1,411 Medical Specialties
- 71 Lab Specialties
- 479 Surgical Specialties
- 20 Area of Focused Competence (AFC)

### What Fields of Training are Practice-Ready Residents in?

- **Family Medicine:** 35%
- **Medical Specialties:** 65%
- **Lab Specialties:** 40%
- **Surgical Specialties:** 43%
- **Area of Focused Competence (AFC):** 13.6%

### The Number of Unmatched Canadian Medical Graduates:

- **First Iteration:**
  - 2018: 198
  - 2019: 157
  - 2020: 137
- **Second Iteration:**
  - 2018: 69
  - 2019: 31
  - 2020: 25

### The Median Debt for Medical Students is $100,000

- 13.6% will graduate with over $200,000 of debt
NAVIGATING A NEW NORM FOR ACADEMIC MEDICINE

Our academic medicine community came together like never before to address the many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The AFMC Board of Directors, the Continuing Professional Development Committee, Postgraduate Medical Education Committee, Undergraduate Medical Education Committee, Student Affairs Committee, Research Committee, Graduate Studies Committee as well as the AFMC Resident Matching Committee met on a weekly basis to make important decisions on our medical education and research environments. These are the highlights of the initiatives implemented as a result of strong collaboration from the academic medicine community.

THE 2021 R1 MATCH

The COVID-19 pandemic led to medical students being removed from clinical rotations in early March, 2020. This resulted in the need for a compressed timeline for entry into residency. The AFMC Board of Directors agreed to move to a virtual format for all resident interviews.

2021 MATCH TIMELINE

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Match application opens</td>
<td>Application due date</td>
<td>National virtual interview period</td>
<td>Match Day 1st iteration</td>
<td>Match Day 2nd iteration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RETURN TO RESEARCH GUIDELINES

AFMC Return to Research Guidelines

1. Facility, staff and research Trixies safety is paramount.
2. The COVID-19 environment must be stable and decreasing in prevalence and any decisions should be in compliance with Federal and Provincial Public Health Guidelines.
3. Faculty, Staff and Research Trixies must ensure off-site visits actively confirming
4. Faculty and Departments can shut down laboratories, thaws or buildings as required.
5. Faculties will work collaboratively with their VP Research to ensure re-opening research.

Paracontingency for re-opening and sustaining ongoing University Research Programs in times of COVID-19

1. Sustained low prevalence or declining COVID-19 prevalence in the community.
2. Daily entries for risk exposure (e.g., symptoms and temperature check)
3. Entry into the facility
4. Access to research lab
5. Physical distancing
6. Personal protective equipment (PPE) use in the office and laboratory as recommended by Public Health Guidelines
The voice of academic medicine in Canada

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND FOR RESEARCH TRAINEES IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

LEARNER NEWS

In an effort to ensure that learners have the most accurate information and news relating to undergraduate and postgraduate medical education, we created a LEARNER NEWS section on our website with updates.

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

AFMC would like to thank the Government of Canada for its investments in COVID-19 Research and Testing as well as its investment to extend expiring federal graduate research scholarships and post-doctoral fellowships.

FACULTRIES OF MEDICINE RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

AFMC’s DOCTORS and SCIENTISTS not only provide care to patients and teach the next generation of doctors and scientists but also do research that leads to groundbreaking discoveries, new drugs, vaccines, devices, tests, and systems.

MORE THAN HALF of the CIHR Funded Health Research Grants are within Faculties of Medicine.

HEALTH RESEARCH AREAS OF FOCUS INCLUDE

- Development of rapid point of care tests
- Analysis of the SARS-COV-2 virus strain
- Development of vaccine and vaccine testing

SOCIAL AND POLICY AREAS OF FOCUS INCLUDE

- Understanding the Socio-Cultural Implications of COVID-19
- Working on outbreak management strategies
- Development of a formal guideline for COVID-19 management
AFMC STATEMENT AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

As the voice of academic medicine in Canada, we, the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada, stand against racial discrimination as well as all other forms of discrimination. The AFMC is committed to working with health partners to ensure that our environments are diverse, inclusive, culturally safe and foster equity. We will implement institutional change and lead in addressing systemic racism through education and curricular innovation, research and advocacy for equity, diversity and inclusiveness.

MCAT FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROVIDES HOPE TO FUTURE MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICANTS

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the AFMC offer a fee assistance program for Canadian examinees, in financial need, who register for the Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®). More than 130 students received the MCAT Fee Assistance Program in 2019.

FATIMA TOKHMAFSHAN — MCAT FEE ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT 2019

How did you hear about the MCAT fee assistance program for Canadians?
I knew that AAMC has a fee assistance program, so I gave them a call to see if I would qualify. To my surprise they informed that AFMC is the body that offers fee assistance to Canadian applicants.

How has the program helped you towards your admission into medical school?
There was a great sense of relief when I received the email from AFMC notifying me that my application for assistance was accepted. It gave me a glimmer of hope about my chances, and that maybe medicine isn’t just for rich kids. Though that glimmer dissipated quickly because I was still going to study on my own, after work, with book borrowed from McGill library. A few weeks later, the hope was back again when I received a big parcel from AFMC containing some cue cards and other study material. That parcel filled me with joy, and even though I knew I wasn’t playing on the same playing field as many other applicants, the idea that someone is in my corner supporting me, solidified my determination to give it my all.

Any words of advice for other applicants? Learners?
Be confident! I think that is a general advice that works well in almost every situation. But particularly in high stress situation such as writing a high stakes exam like MCAT or applying to medical school. My second advice is do your due diligence—it will make everything go smoother, not to mention it is an important trait of any professional.
SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS HEALTH

As part of its social accountability mandate, AFMC seeks to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous people by ensuring Canadian medical schools respond to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, by training more Indigenous health professionals and by committing to develop safe working and learning environments for Indigenous learners, faculty and staff. The focus over the last year has been on implementing the recommendations in the Joint Commitment to Action on Indigenous Health Report.

FACTT

The Future of Admissions in Canada Think Tank (FACTT) is tasked with supporting the AFMC in establishing principles and pursuing best practices to enhance the admission of students into Canadian medical schools. This year, they worked on the proposed strategy for enhancing admissions and developed a set of recommendations for action over the next three years.
ADVANCING #MEDED

ACCREDITATION

Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS)

Early in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic exigencies, the CACMS postponed accreditation visits and document submissions. Full visits were later re-scheduled using a new virtual process which will be the subject of a robust evaluation by scholars independent of the CACMS. In May and September 2020, and for the first time in its forty-one-year history, the CACMS meetings were held virtually. The CACMS initiated a consultation process in January 2020 by circulating an on-line survey. A key objective of the consultation process is to obtain stakeholder feedback on accreditation standards/elements, documents and processes. Survey results guided the Secretariat in developing an initial series of five proposals for change. Stakeholder feedback has led to the development of additional proposals and a corresponding preliminary action plan to be further discussed. The consultation deliverable is an action plan for CACMS to consider.

Committee on Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (CACME)

The COVID pandemic resulted in revised timelines and the postponement of an accreditation visit which will now be held virtually. The regular spring meeting was held virtually over a series of three days where it was decided to form two working groups. The interim review working group is now finalizing the 48-month interim review process that evolved from the extension of a five-year accreditation cycle to an eight-year cycle. With sponsor approval, the standards working group is undertaking a step-wise approach to standard revision, the first step being to reformat each standard, the second to review each standard for content.

VIRTUAL CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic and the Government of British Columbia, directed all event organizers to cancel any gatherings over 250 people. The safety of CCME delegates and Canada’s health workforce is paramount and a high priority for the CCME partners. Therefore, CCME partners approved moving to a virtual CCME for 2020.

We leveraged state of the art technology to rapidly bring a condensed program to delegates. All eight original plenaries, as designed by the Scientific Program Committee, were provided. These included the plenary sessions, the Education Innovation and Education Research symposia, the AFMC Learner Forum and AFMC Hot Topic. Abstracts for all posters, workshops and orals accepted to CCME 2020 were published in the Canadian Medical Education Journal.
NEW RESIDENT TRANSFER GUIDELINES

The National Resident Transfer Guidelines has been updated, improving upon the original 2015 policy by clarifying timelines and responsibilities for the residents and universities. The guidelines are intended to provide a transparent process that is clear to both the resident and universities involved. Prior to engaging in discussion regarding a transfer, it is the responsibility of the resident to review the national guidelines as well as their own home school’s transfer guideline / policy.

ENTRY ROUTES

Postgraduate medical education (PGME) in Canada is part of a complex integrated system whose goal is to produce the physician workforce to meet the health care needs of Canadians. Currently Canada produces physicians who have expertise in 87 disciplines, of which 30 are Entry Routes to residency. It is imperative that entry routes into residency programs be aligned with the right number of the right types of physicians to meet our societal needs.

The AFMC is actively engaging all stakeholders to explore the harmonization of entry routes in areas that will address our mutual responsibility to respond to the fluctuating needs of the population we serve and to support improved learner experiences and career selection processes for our medical students and residents.

NEW RESIDENT TRANSFER PROGRAM

Each year, there are medical residents (doctors in training) who seek to “transfer” from their current residency program to a program in another discipline and/or school, based on a desire to switch their career path or other personal/professional reasons. Despite the significant desire for transfers, no more than 1-3% of residents transfer every year. The most important barrier to transfers is the inability to have the funding allocated to a resident move with that resident during a transfer.

AFMC is advocating for governments for a pan-Canadian Resident Transfer Program which would enable residents to receive the required funding for transferring from one residency program to another either intraprovincially or interprovincially. A medical education system that includes a pan-Canadian Resident Transfer System, will lead to a healthier physician workforce and better patient care.
PAVING THE WAY FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

The research and innovation that is conducted by Canada’s medical schools lead to healthier Canadians, reduces health care costs and grows the knowledge economy.

Collectively, AFMC’s doctors and scientists not only provide care to patients and teach the next generation of doctors and scientists but also do research to improve healthcare. This research includes ground breaking discoveries that lead to new drugs, vaccines, devices, tests, and systems, collectively called innovations.

This year, we released the Health innovation in Canada: Optimizing health and Canada’s prosperity report and asked the Government of Canada to kick-start health care innovation to save our cherished healthcare system.
FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Every fiscal year, the AFMC annual report presents HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 17 CANADIAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS and celebrates their notable accomplishments and successes. This year, faculty highlights focus on programs, initiatives, research in FOUR MAIN AREAS:

- SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY
- DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
- COVID-19 INITIATIVES
- RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Faculty of Medicine

Memorial University
Dalhousie University
Université Laval
Université de Sherbrooke
uOttawa

McGill University
Université de Montréal
Queen's University
Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
McMaster University
Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

University of Alberta
Lakehead University
University of Calgary
University of British Columbia
SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Our medical schools have an enduring commitment to social accountability. This is reflected in all aspects of their programs through:

ADMISSION PATHWAYS

EDUCATION

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The following is an overview of the schools’ initiatives to direct their education, research and service toward the PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.
The strategic planning 2020-2025 is the result of a vast
A new strategic planning for 20-35 on the theme of
year, have raised over $800,000 for Maritime charities. This
Euphoria!
produced and performed in variety show called
•
• Medical education in the time of COVID-19: Dal Med takes doctor training online; clerks step up to volunteer
• Committed to Community
Since 1969, Dalhousie Medical School students have produced and performed in variety show called Euphoria!; an annual fundraiser whose performances have raised over $800,000 for Maritime charities. This year, Euphoria! raised an incredible $40,781.67 for the Halifax Sexual Health Centre.
• EUPHORIA! 2020

The Faculty of Medicine at Laval University won the Keith Award from the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada for a second consecutive year, and for the fourth time. This distinction is awarded annually to the Canadian Faculty of Medicine that has trained the greatest number of family physicians still practicing in rural areas ten years after graduation.

Implementation of a program of social responsibility initiatives
The projects supported by the program must be carried out in partnership with the Vice-Deanship for Social Responsibility, must have a potential for socially responsible development and must be in line with the Faculty of Medicine’s 2020-2025 strategic planning.

Our commitment to social responsibility in Healthcare
The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) is strongly aware of its social responsibility in healthcare (SRH). More than ever, SRH deserves to be made explicit, valued, prioritized and integrated on a daily basis into our activities, teaching and faculty projects. The FMHS has launched the Social Responsibility in Healthcare newsletter, which highlights four priority themes: eco-responsibility, equity-diversity-inclusion, global health, and Indigenous health.

ECONOMIC AND FUTURISTIC PROSPECTS
A new generation of McGill physicians begins training in Gatineau
McGill University and its partners, the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de l’Outaouais and the Université du Québec en Outaouais, welcomed the first cohort of medical and medical preparatory students to its new Campus Outaouais, offering the full gamut of medical education in the region and fully in French.

Indigenous perspectives: Decolonizing the approach to health research in primary care
Over a five-week span, a group of graduate students and researchers from McGill University’s Department of Family Medicine had the opportunity to learn and better understand Indigenous viewpoints on health and wellness, leading to discussions on finding ways to develop significant partnerships with Indigenous peoples through patient-centred research.

Obtaining ASPIRE recognition
The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Montreal has made a long-term commitment to promote social responsibility and the health of Aboriginal people. The citizen forums consolidate this commitment to focus on the health of vulnerable people, worries that the lockdown induced by the COVID-19 pandemic will take away their essential social support.

Maps, Mosquitoes and Medicine
Dr. Manisha Kulkarni combines multiple disciplines to outsmart global disease vectors.

Who Gets to be a Doctor?
A session titled “Who Gets to be a Doctor?” was introduced in the undergraduate medical curriculum at the School of Medicine in 2019 and will be a permanent addition to the 1st year curriculum. In the three-hour session, students learn about the history of discriminatory medical admissions at Queen’s, with a focus on the 1918 ban on Black Medical Students and discuss strategies currently being deployed by Canadian medical schools to address these historical legacies and ensure equity in medical admissions going forward.

The Faculty of Health Sciences established and completed the first year of its Faculty Mentorship Program. The program serves as a reciprocal process for sharing experiences and to foster a trusting environment for career guidance and psychosocial support for faculty members.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS – SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Memorial University’s Faculty of Medicine has once again earned the faculty the 2019 Rural Medical Education Award from the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) for the second year in a row and third time in 11 years http://bit.ly/2UElF1x.
Its third Aboriginal Health Symposium was held on Nov. 21, 2019. The event showcased Aboriginal education and research taking place at Memorial and featured keynote speaker Dr. Debbie Martin, Tier II Canada Research Chair, Indigenous Peoples Health and Well-Being, as well as a discussion with the Visiting Elders Project Panel.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE
As COVID-19 evolved, medical students at Dalhousie University volunteered time and talent to give back to the community; matching their skill sets to what opportunities were available.

• Medical education in the time of COVID-19: Dal Med takes doctor training online; clerks step up to volunteer
• Committed to Community
Since 1969, Dalhousie Medical School students have produced and performed in variety show called Euphoria!; an annual fundraiser whose performances have raised over $800,000 for Maritime charities. This year, Euphoria! raised an incredible $40,781.67 for the Halifax Sexual Health Centre.

L’UNIVERSITÉ DE SHERBROOKE – FACULTÉ DE MéDECINE ET DES SCIENCES DE LA SANTÉ
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MCGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE
A new generation of McGill physicians begins training in Gatineau
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UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE
Citizen forums on Aboriginal Access to Health Professions
The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Montreal has made a long-term commitment to promote social responsibility and the health of Aboriginal people. The citizen forums consolidate this commitment to focus on its activities on their concerns.

UNIVERSITÉ DE QUEBEC EN OUTAOUAIS FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE
Obtaining ASPIRE recognition
The Faculty of Medicine was proud to receive the prestigious ASPIRE recognition for excellence in social responsibility at the annual congress of the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE). The ASPIRE Recognition of Excellence in Social Accountability of a Medical School is awarded to medical schools that distinguish themselves by their commitment to directing their training, research and services towards meeting the needs of the regional and national communities they serve.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA FACULTY OF MEDICINE
It takes a village to kick an addiction
Dr. Smita Pakhalé, who co-leads a unique smoking cessation program for, and with, Ottawa’s most vulnerable people, worries that the lockdown induced by the COVID-19 pandemic will take away their essential social support.

Maps, Mosquitoes and Medicine
Dr. Manisha Kulkarni combines multiple disciplines to outsmart global disease vectors.

QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
A session titled “Who Gets to be a Doctor?” was introduced in the undergraduate medical curriculum at the School of Medicine in 2019 and will be a permanent addition to the 1st year curriculum. In the three-hour session, students learn about the history of discriminatory medical admissions at Queen’s, with a focus on the 1918 ban on Black Medical Students and discuss strategies currently being deployed by Canadian medical schools to address these historical legacies and ensure equity in medical admissions going forward.

The Faculty of Health Sciences established and completed the first year of its Faculty Mentorship Program. The program serves as a reciprocal process for sharing experiences and to foster a trusting environment for career guidance and psychosocial support for faculty members.

https://healthsci.queensu.ca/faculty-staff/opdes/programs/mentor
SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

As medical learner mistreatment remains a key issue in surveys across the country, University of Toronto’s (U of T) MD Program has launched SMART: The Student Misconduct Advocacy and Response Team, which is simplifying, supporting and communicating the process of incident disclosure and reporting to and for learners. Dean Trevor Young framed the issue and outlined the expectations of faculty in Respecting MD Students: It’s Not a Choice, a message posted and shared widely across and beyond the Faculty.

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

The McMaster Okanagan Committee, led by leadership of the medical school, launched an interactive website, which contains an inventory of the university’s programs, services, research and courses regarding health and well-being initiatives. The website received international attention and is part of McMaster’s 2017 commitment to the Okanagan Charter.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Community-driven project improves patient outcomes for diabetes in Indigenous communities

Dr. Stewart Harris and his team launched the FORGE AHEAD project in response to data showing the incidence and prevalence of type 2 diabetes was significantly higher among Indigenous populations and that people living in Indigenous communities were less likely to receive adequate care. At the program level, the researchers saw significant improvements in important clinical indicators for diabetes, including blood glucose control, blood pressure and LDL cholesterol for high-risk patients.

Trans and non-binary Canadians report having unmet health care needs

The first report from the Trans PULSE Canada survey was released in March 2020 under the leadership of Greta Bauer, PhD, Professor and the principal investigator. The data was collected through a Canada-wide survey of almost 3,000 transgender and non-binary people. This is the first national all-ages data on the health and wellbeing of this group of individuals.

NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Fifteen years ago, NOSM was established with an explicit socially accountable mandate; a commitment to respond to the diversity of the region, address the health needs of all Northern Ontarians and improve access to quality health care through education and research. NOSM is taking this challenge on like never before with its new 2021-2025 strategic plan that will allow the School to better understand the differing, unique needs of each individual community, and help address those needs in its approach to expansion. One of the key areas in achieving this mandate is by linking health human resources (HHR) to Northern Ontario’s needs. Dr. Sarah Newberry was appointed NOSM’s first Assistant Dean, Physician Workforce Strategy, a role designed to reengage with communities in finding sustainable solutions to physician recruitment and retention.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA MAX RADY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, RADY FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Women students and faculty members in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences have a new opportunity to develop their leadership skills thanks to a recently established fund. The Winnipeg Foundation Martha Donovan Leadership Fund is a $250,000 fund created to provide leadership development opportunities for women in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. For the next five years, $50,000 will be made available on an annual basis. Faculty members from Medicine and Science teamed up to collect protective gear for health-care workers in the COVID-19 fight.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The college’s Division of Social Accountability is an active participant in the COVID-19 Vulnerable Sector Response in Saskatoon. This includes contribution to funding, active engagement with the communications and health promotion efforts, and membership, staffing, and input into the data management. The division has also moved its successful Making the Links Certificate in Global Health program online.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

3D heart model advances patient education: The University of Alberta project helps families, patients and medical trainees visualize congenital heart defects. University of Alberta project helps families, patients and medical trainees visualize congenital heart defects.

Why UBC medical school has decided to admit refugees

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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) recognizes its accountability to the people of Alberta. The CSM understands the health needs of Albertans and is committed to creating the highly skilled workforce that will meet those needs. Review the CSM’s strategic plan.

The CSM’s Indigenous, Local & Global Health Office was awarded an intercultural capacity building grant to support a second year of operations for the Traditional Knowledge Keepers in Residence Program (TKK). The TKK program provides students, faculty and staff with the opportunity to engage with Elders through teachings, workshops, gatherings and ceremonies.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Why UBC medical school has decided to admit refugees

UBC Faculty of Medicine, in consultation with the provincial and federal governments, removes the “permanent residency” and citizenship requirements from our admissions process for refugees. Combating social isolation during COVID-19

With the Connecting with Compassion initiative, UBC faculty and students are looking to technology to help families stay connected with their loved ones and combat the social isolation being felt by seniors living in long-term care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Our society is changing and becoming more diverse, thus our medical schools are committed to promote equity, diversity and inclusion throughout medical education and to cultivate a diverse physician workforce that is representative of the Canadian population. We highlight below efforts across schools to reduce systemic barriers to equity, diversity and inclusion in medical education.

CULTIVATE A DIVERSE PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE THAT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CANADIAN POPULATION
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

The faculty of medicine has created a new faculty position Assistant Dean, Faculty Wellness, Equity and Professionalism to provide a leadership focus on supporting, improving and advancing equity, professionalism and the health needs of faculty. A Culture of Excellence Project Team was also created as part of its strategic plan, Destination Excellence, to establish an accountability framework and process to monitor and evaluate action plans regarding professionalism, mistreatment and equity and diversity.

DALHOUSSIE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Chair Chats is a forum for Black students in Dalhousie’s health professions and graduate studies to openly discuss topics that come up in their classes, connect with their peers, and hear from those who have shared similar experiences. The initiative is led by Dr. OmiSoore Dryden, the James R. Johnston Chair in Indigenous students aspiring to a career in health.

• Chair Chats: connecting through shared experiences
As it strives to reflect the diversity in its own community, Dalhousie University is taking action to support the access and success of under-represented groups including support for Black students and communities and Indigenous students who aspire to pursue a career in medicine.

UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL – FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE

The Faculty positions itself in favor of openness and inclusiveness.

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTREAL
FACULTE DE MEDICINE

Improving health services for women and girls in Mali
Access to quality health services for women and girls in Mali will be greatly improved thanks to significant funding from the Government of Canada. The Local Learning Communities for Healthy Women and Girls (CLEFS) project will be implemented by the Centre for International Cooperation in Health and Development (CCISD), in partnership with the Cégep de Saint-Jérôme and the University of Sherbrooke.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Providing Black students with insight and inspiration on applying to medical school
The student-led Supporting Young Black Students initiative at McGill aims to inspire other young Black students to pursue careers in the health professions.

McGill’s Eagle Spirit Science Futures Camp
McGill’s Eagle Spirit Science Futures Camp is a one-week health and sciences camp empowering Indigenous youth to realize their full potential in education, health, leadership and personal development.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Mentorship for learners: Fostering a culture of growth, innovation and diversity
A core value of teaching and learning is mentorship. Over recent years, the Faculty of Medicine has cultivated a thriving list of mentorship programs led by researchers, clinicians and students.

McGill’s Eagle Spirit Science Futures Camp
McGill’s Eagle Spirit Science Futures Camp is a one-week health and sciences camp empowering Indigenous youth to realize their full potential in education, health, leadership and personal development.

Indigenous youth take lead at Eagle Spirit Science Futures camp
McGill’s Eagle Spirit Science Futures Camp is a one-week health and sciences camp empowering Indigenous youth to realize their full potential in education, health, leadership and personal development.

QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

The Faculty of Health Sciences established an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) working group to pursue the creation of a diversity statement and the implementation of EDI initiatives across the faculty. The working group folded into the Dean’s Action Table on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion which was established in September 2020.

In an effort to reduce systemic barriers to medical education, the School of Medicine announced in July that it will allocate 10 of its 100 seats to Black and Indigenous students in each class of its MD program, starting with the 2020-2021 undergraduate application cycle. These 10 seats will be made available through the Queen’s University Accelerated Route to Medical School (QuARMS) pathway, which was launched in 2012.

The School of Medicine established mentorship programs for Black and LGBTQ+ students. The programs match medical students with volunteer faculty mentors to provide guidance as they progress through clerkship, residency, and into the medical profession.

Indigenous Celebration: MD curriculum champions inclusivity and social accountability
New uOttawa MD students gathered at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health to learn about Indigenous cultures at the Faculty of Medicine’s Indigenous Celebration.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Three years since the launch of the Black Student Application Program and months after the graduation of University of Toronto (U of T)’s first stand-alone Black female MD valedictorian, Fall 2020 marks Year 1 for an impressive cohort of more than 20 Black MD
students at U of T. The success of the BSAP program caught the attention of national and international media, including a feature piece by Radio-Canada. Journalist Valerie-Micaela Bain who noted that she doesn’t “often get the chance to feature an all-Black cast in such a positive light and it was amazing.”

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

McMaster’s Faculty of Health Sciences has established a dedicated Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EDIAC) focused on strategic recruitment and retention, training and professional development. Twenty-three employment equity facilitators have been trained to support search committees to incorporate EDI principles into the recruitment process. This community of practice will provide supports and resources to ensure the success of the program and employment equity goals.

The Indigenous Health Initiative (IHI) of the Faculty of Health Sciences is collaborating to address the knowledge gaps of non-Indigenous faculty and staff, while prioritizing the recruitment of Indigenous faculty members; development of a robust cross-Faculty Indigenous health curriculum; and ongoing education and support of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous faculty.

NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

This year, NOSM sparked a much needed “Respect the Difference” movement to influence wider change in the culture of medicine and medical education. The goal is to make a lasting difference by living and propelling a culture of kindness and respect. Learn more about culture.nosm.ca.

Furthermore, NOSM commits to taking responsibility and looking for actionable ways to make a difference in our communities. NOSM’s 2021-2025 strategic plan challenges discrimination, engages in anti-racist language, and addresses inequity. To lead the School in this work, Dr. Joseph LeBlanc was appointed NOSM’s inaugural Associate Dean, Equity and Inclusion.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Max Rady College of Medicine, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences

On August 25, 2020, the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences’ Faculty Executive Council (FEC) approved the RFHS Disruption of all Forms of Racism policy, the first anti-racism policy to be passed by any faculty or post-secondary institution in Canada.

Ongomizwin, the Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, celebrated the 50th anniversary of its health services unit with a gala dinner and research symposium on Jan. 23-24, 2020. Started in 1969 as an outreach program, Ongomizwin – Health Services (OHS) has evolved into an interprofessional agency that serves 30 communities in Manitoba and Nunavut, providing services ranging from family practice and medical specialties to rehabilitation therapy. The unit works collaboratively with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Medicine

The college of medicine has expanded its resources in the area of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). Information is shared on its website and its EDI working group has provided its first annual report. More recently, to further support its commitment to EDI, a new specialist position was created and filled to help lead and advise on EDI initiatives.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS – DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Cumming School of Medicine

Included in the Cumming School of Medicine’s (CSM) Class of 2023 medical students is the first cohort of students from the Pathways to Medicine Scholarship program. The CSM introduced this program in 2016 to support the enrolment and success of future medical students from under-represented groups throughout Alberta.

In July 2020, the CSM, in collaboration with the Calgary Black Medical Students’ Association, established a Black Applicant Admissions Process (BAAP) for those who apply to the Undergraduate Medical Education program. Introducing the BAAP is one step in the right direction in the CSM’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Medicine

Standing up for change

Roslyn Golder is leading UBC’s Faculty of Medicine in transforming the learning and work environment by promoting respectful and professional conduct and tackling systemic discrimination, bias and mistreatment.

Improving Indigenous cancer outcomes and wellness

Dr. Nadine Caron, Canada’s first female First Nations general surgeon, named founding First Nations Health Authority Chair in Cancer and Wellness at UBC.

New Indigenous Lead appointed

In February 2020, Danielle Alcock, PhD, was appointed as the Indigenous Lead for the School. In her role, Alcock will act as a champion for all aspects of the Indigenous Health Action Plan and will lead Schulich Medicine & Dentistry in achieving the goals outlined by the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada action items that specifically relate to health care education. Alcock, who is a member of the Chippewas of Rama First Nation, will also work to forge respectful relationships with Indigenous communities, particularly those in Southwestern Ontario, that support engagement and collaboration.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

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COVID-19 INITIATIVES

This year, the medical education community experienced abrupt disruptions due to the COVID-19 outbreak. During the pandemic, our 17 Canadian medical schools have risen to the unprecedented challenges posed by the spread of Covid-19, prioritising the safety and well-being of learners, faculty and staff, while also leading Covid-19 research efforts and contributing to local and national initiatives to fight the coronavirus.

This is an overview of our medical schools’ tools, initiatives and resources to support medical learners, faculty, staff and their community during the pandemic.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS HAVE Risen TO THE UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES POSED BY THE SPREAD OF COVID-19
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Faculty, staff, and learners were assisting in a myriad of ways to address various needs as a result of COVID-19. For example, one of its faculty members is heading the province’s analytics team and another is acting as the medical officer of health for the Eastern Health Regional Health Authority.

After a provincial call for personal protective equipment, alumni and staff generously produced and supplied PPE to the regional health authorities. 3D-printing company, Polyprint, which was developed by three of the Faculty of Medicine students, fabricated PPE for health care workers to help with shortages. Read more about the faculty’s pandemic response here.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Dalhousie University infectious diseases, vaccinology and immunology researchers are pursuing vaccine, antiviral, point-of-care testing and immune-boosting strategies as quickly as they can, in collaboration with their colleagues, in the newly formed Canadian COVID-19 Research Network.

- Facing the new coronavirus: Dalhousie researchers help galvanize scientific response to the new pandemic
- Innovative COVID-19 response: Dal Med Human Body Donation Program contributes to airway training

UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE

Mobilization and commitment pandemic

The global health crisis has given way to an epidemic of creativity, solidarity and dedication among the members of the Faculty of Medicine at Laval University. A showcase highlighting its members’ initiatives related to COVID-19 was put online in June 2020.

L’UNIVERSITÉ DE SHERBROOKE – FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE ET DES SCIENCES DE LA SANTÉ

Testing for COVID-19

An interdisciplinary team from the University of Sherbrooke conducted a Canadian survey on the psychosocial impacts of COVID-19. Preliminary results of the survey on the psychological and behavioural response to the pandemic and the influence of communication strategies and media discourse are available.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

COVID-19 test developed at McGill receives government support

McGill researchers partner with National Research Council to develop capability to produce millions of SARS-CoV-2 tests to make Canada self-sufficient.

McGill Professor implementing AI tech to predict and monitor COVID-19 in long-term care residences

Professor Samira Rahimi is using real-time AI technology to track, monitor, and predict COVID-19 symptoms among high-risk seniors in Montreal and Toronto.

Unique circumstances call for innovative solutions

With the traditional means to educate students temporarily unavailable, the health profession schools at McGill University’s Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, sprang into action to identify innovative, alternative means for students to gain clinical experience.

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE

Cellular targets for the development of new therapies for COVID-19

Researchers at the University are using cutting-edge computational approaches to understand the evolution of the virus to predict the effectiveness of drugs and vaccines. Their goal is to develop effective drugs and vaccines that target infection and replication of the virus in human cells. With their expertise in molecular drug design, they will use platforms in structural biology, electron microscopy and medicinal chemistry to develop powerful molecules for the treatment of COVID-19.

A screening test done at the Faculty

The teaching laboratory team of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine has developed a reagent to detect the presence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in humans. Composed of several enzymes created in the laboratory, this mixture called UdeM-20 is used more specifically to detect viral RNA, the genetic material of the coronavirus, in nasal swabs.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Could blood plasma shore up our COVID defenses?

Dr. Alan Tinmouth and Dr. Dean Fergusson are part of the world’s largest known study into whether antibodies from recovered patients can help cure actively sick ones.

Biking fundraiser zooms in on isolated seniors

Ride to Connect started out in June as a grassroots fundraiser where seven uOttawa medical school friends decided to collectively bike the distance across Canada to raise money to help seniors combat social isolation during COVID-19.

QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Several faculty members within the School of Medicine have been awarded funding to pursue research related to COVID-19. Projects range from exploring the experiences of Indigenous peoples living with chronic health issues during the pandemic to COVID-19 testing of health professions students to inform public policy.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

In spring 2020, the Temerty Foundation donated an extraordinary $10 million to create the Dean’s COVID-19 Priority Fund, directly supporting front-line clinical faculty members and trainees fighting the pandemic, as well as researchers at the University of Toronto (U OF T) and partner hospitals seeking to improve testing, accelerate vaccine research and create better treatments and prevention strategies. This generous gift allowed the immediate expansion of U of T’s Containment Level 3 (CL3) facility and creation of a COVID-19 Biobank to house virus samples, a national priority, and accelerated many research and front-line initiatives. Read more here.

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Researchers of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine quickly joined the intensive effort to understand COVID-19 and develop treatments and health care protocols. Among the pandemic research, they are currently leading two national studies, one collecting data on aging adults’ experience during COVID-19, and the only national study with convalescent plasma approved in Canada. The McMaster Health Forum established COVID-19 Evidence Network to support Decision making, (COVID-END), as a time-limited international network with more than 45 international evidence synthesis and knowledge translation groups that has come
together to collaboratively advance the evidence synthesis ecosystem. The group helps decision-makers to find and use the best evidence, reduce duplication and coordinate the evidence syntheses, technology assessment and guidelines being produced.

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY**  
Schulich Medicine students lead the country in supporting their clinical colleagues  
In mid-March, medical students at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry rallied to support their health care colleagues as the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact local communities. The student-led initiative offered free childcare, errand running and volunteering services as local and regional Schools began to shut down. The initiative took on a life of its own as medical students across the country joined in to provide similar services in their own communities across the country.

**COVID-19 vaccine being undertaken in one of a kind facility**  
A team at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry is rapidly working to develop a vaccine for COVID-19, along with leading experts in virology, vaccinology and infectious diseases at Western University. With an investment of nearly $1 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the team began their work in preparation for patient influx.

**NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**  
In March 2020, NOSM shifted its entire learning and work environment online. Though in-person clinical learning opportunities were impacted for some programs, not a day of education was missed during this enormous upheaval. This quick transition to learning and working from home is a tribute to the entire NOSM community from education leaders, to faculty members and staff, including information technologists, curriculum designers and coordinators. Many creative initiatives were launch by learners, faculty and staff during this time. #NOSMkind initiatives included #PPEforHCP and The Art of Medicine Project.

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA MAX RADY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, RADY FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
Rady students step up to help with COVID-19 response in Manitoba  
Medical students took the initiative early on in the pandemic lockdown to organize their student body (across all years) to help physicians with child care, dog walking and grocery shopping; facilitate communication between ICU patients and their family via electronic devices; and volunteer at testing sites, contact tracing and screening at hospital entrances or other facilities.

**The Manitoba Covid-19 Report**  
Medical students launched The Manitoba COVID-19 Report, a weekly newsletter, on March 21. Targeted at medical professionals, the newsletter pulled together the latest evidence found on the virus based on questions from the medical community, every week the team prioritized questions in six different categories: treatment; clinical description and epidemiology; testing, surveillance and diagnostics; infection, prevention and control; public health interventions; and pediatrics.

**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**  
The College of Medicine has supported the needs of Saskatchewan during the COVID-19 pandemic across patient care, public health, medical research, pandemic education, assistance with learning and working remotely, and much more. A recap of much of the work the college undertook was shared in a blog from the dean and information and news is shared through a special COVID-19 page on its website.

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY**  
Rapid Response: When COVID-19 hit, the University of Alberta, home to one of the world’s pre-eminent virology institutes, was ready.  
MD program, learners showcase adaptability, generosity during uncertain times: Fourth-year MD student Jillian Schneider organized an initiative in early March to pair MD student volunteers with front-line health-care providers for child care, after the province announced an indefinite closure of Alberta schools to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY FACULTY OF MEDICINE**  
In March 2020, the University of Calgary launched a series of webinars with researchers and experts, including many from the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM), that focus on topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**UBC-led study finds trial drug can significantly block early stages of COVID-19 in engineered human tissues**  
An international team led by University of British Columbia researcher Dr. Josef Penninger found a trial drug that effectively blocks the cellular door SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, uses to infect its hosts.

**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FACULTY OF MEDICINE**  
Pathways: Rapid Response – Research to combat COVID-19  
When COVID-19 broke, UBC Faculty of Medicine mobilized a rapid response to the outbreak, embarking on a new age of collaborative research-based health care.
The voice of academic medicine in Canada

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Our medical schools are committed to improving the health of Canadians through excellence in research, advancing knowledge and fostering healthcare innovation. Our medical school researchers lead cutting-edge research activities that translate scientific discoveries into groundbreaking medical treatments in areas ranging from cancer, Covid-19 to infectious diseases, neuroscience and more. The schools’ innovative and world-class research is profiled here.

CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

GROUND BREAKING MEDICAL TREATMENTS
**Faculty Highlights – Research and Innovation**

**Memorial University Faculty of Medicine**

The faculty is one of the few medical schools in the country to have the Anatomage 6.0, a new teaching and learning tool. It is the world’s first virtual dissection table and the only fully segmented real human 3D anatomy system. Learners can rotate the virtual body and cut in any direction.

Researchers have created a new app to reduce emergency room wait times and improve patient care. Surgeon’s algorithm is helping increase staffing efficiencies by ensuring there were enough health-care professionals to accommodate busy periods, reducing the average wait time from 104 minutes to 42 minutes.

**Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine**

Historically, the Faculty of Medicine has supported the “grass-roots” development of research. Its research strategy addresses two opportunities: targeting international competitiveness while delivering health-care benefits to its Maritime region. Achieving national and international recognition for its accomplishments in important areas of health care research strengthens our role as the Medical School for the Maritimes and leads to results that can be adapted for success on the national and international stage.

- Dalhousie Neurosurgery Resident Receives Top Prize for Clinical Neuroscience Research
- Reducing brain inflammation may be the key to slowing or even reversing cognitive decline associated with aging
- Award-winning achievement: Researcher’s work shows how Canada’s new cigarette packaging will curb smoking
- Dal Med NB receives $1.1 million in funding for research dedicated to understanding heart disease in women

**Université Laval Faculté de Médecine**

Over $8 million in funding for COVID-19 related research

Research teams from the Faculty of Medicine at Laval University have distinguished themselves in several areas related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, they have received more than $8 million from various funding agencies. Here are a few examples of current projects:

- Drug discovery against COVID-19 through structural biology and data analysis
- Artificial intelligence used in vaccine production

Creation of the new VITAM center which aims at the necessary rapprochement between science, population and organizations

With more than 100 researchers from 15 different disciplines, current research topics (aging, health professional burnout, palliative care, etc.) and strong support from the Quebec government, the VITAM center has the winning conditions to fulfill its mission: working with the population and organizations to study public health issues and community services.

**L’université de Sherbrooke – Faculté de médecine et des sciences de la santé**

Creation of the Office of Valorization and Partnerships

The Office of Valorization and Partnerships encourages partnership collaborations based on an open innovation model to maximize economic and social benefits. It wishes to offer a range of services in this area to researchers, their research teams and members of the five research centers affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

**Université de Montréal Faculté de médecine**

The renowned microbiologist and professor in the Department of Microbiology, Infectiology and Immunology, Yves Brun, has published several important studies that will contribute to the design of new approaches against antibiotic resistance.

The work of Mike Sapeiha and his colleagues through the UdeM network on diabetic retinopathy contributes to the design of better treatments.

A Canadian collaboration led by Dr. Baptiste Lacoste Vascular development may be at risk in autism

A team of researchers led by Dr. Ian Watson at McGill’s Goodman Cancer Research Centre identified genetic mutations that may explain why men are more likely to develop skin cancer than women.

**McGill University Faculty of Medicine**

Game-changing blood test accurately detects Alzheimer’s disease

A simple and affordable blood test that can detect Alzheimer’s disease was discovered and validated in a joint effort by a McGill team and researchers in Sweden.

A future game changer in the assessment of concussions in hockey?

A team of researchers led by McGill’s Dr. J. Scott Delaney, made the first attempt at developing a balance test that could eventually be used in the concussion assessment of ice hockey players.

Skine Cancer: Why men are genetically more prone

A team of researchers led by Dr. Ian Watson at McGill’s Goodman Cancer Research Centre identified genetic mutations that may explain why men are more likely to develop skin cancer than women.

**University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine**

Specialists on speed-dial

Champlain BASE™ eConsult service wins a Future Innovator Award for breaking down the barriers to timely specialist advice. Dr. Clare Liddy and Dr. Erin Keeley, along with Mr. Amir Akham from the Champlain Local Health Integration Network and technology partners at Winchester District Memorial Hospital, began to develop an alternative called Champlain BASE™ (Building Access to Specialists through eConsultation) eConsult service.

Vascular development may be at risk in autism

A Canadian collaboration led by Dr. Baptiste Lacoste has undertaken the first ever in-depth study of vasculature in the autistic brain. The product of four years of work, a paper published in Nature Neuroscience lays out several lines of novel evidence that strongly implicate defects in endothelial cells—the lining of blood vessels—in autism.

**University of Toronto Temerty Faculty of Medicine**

Like many sectors, research at University of Toronto (U of T) Medicine pivoted quickly when the pandemic emerged. Students were designing apps and coordinating volunteers. Engineers were retooling medical devices. Lab scientists were laser-focused, scaling up any and all COVID-19 research, including work on antibody detection, cancer treatment protocols and portable ventilators. With the gradual restart of non-COVID-19 research since summer 2020, U of T Medicine’s research enterprise has returned to functioning at an impressive capacity while ensuring health and safety remain paramount.
A team of authors from Schulich Medicine & Dentistry and University Health Network released details on Canada's first published case of suspected vaping-related lung injury. The case study may be the first to describe a new type of injury from vaping products.

The Canadian sepsis network (Sepsis Canada) has been established by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research at McMaster’s medical school to work with researchers, patients and family partners to understand the urgency of reducing the burden of sepsis. A National Centre of Excellence for Chronic Pain Research led by McMaster’s medical school was launched at McMaster by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs to focus on research on chronic pain of veterans, setting standards of care and ensuring that information is shared across the country.

The Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine has led the formation of a networking think-tank focused on fostering success in entrepreneurship and innovation. The College of Health Inventors has more than 30 members who have demonstrated both interest and success in entrepreneurship, commercialization and innovation.

McMaster University launched a Masters of Medical Studies program, offering foundational research skills for physicians who want to develop a robust approach to answering relevant health-care questions. Dr. Darrel Manitowabi was appointed as the School’s first NOSM-AMS Hannah Chair in the History of Indigenous Health and Indigenous Traditional Medicine.

New self-directed, interactive online learning module and community of practice workshops were designed to improve the opioid prescribing practices of primary-care providers in Northern Ontario.

An analysis of the 100 most-cited papers in the field of antibiotics and antimicrobials found that Max Rady College of Medicine faculty members are global leader in antibiotics research and University of Manitoba has more contributions than any other educational institution in the world.

A University of Manitoba co-authored study published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine found that the drug hydroxychloroquine does not prevent infection from COVID-19.

Population health experts and biomedical scientists have been highly involved in pandemic response work across research exploring therapeutics to fight COVID-19, tracking public health responses to the pandemic, and compiling data to help inform ongoing public health measures for containing the virus. These stories and more are compiled in its research news.

Cancer drug developed at University of Alberta, funded for human trials: Angel investors step up with $5 million to support testing of new blood cancer treatment.

Micro implants could restore standing and walking: University of Alberta’s research has a proven concept to restore spinal function.

New piece of Alzheimer’s puzzle found: Researchers discover that two short strings of amino acids could pave the way to new treatments for Alzheimer’s disease.

A University of Alberta spinoff company is hoping its Medo.ai app could ‘democratize’ medical imaging: A University of Alberta spinoff company is hoping its new technology to analyze ultrasound images will make diagnosing health problems possible even from remote locations.

History of a diabetes breakthrough: Twenty years ago, University of Alberta scientists transformed Edmonton into the world’s leading light in the quest to cure Type 1 diabetes. Now they’re closer than ever.

University of Alberta virologist awarded Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine: Michael Houghton discovered hepatitis C virus and is now developing a vaccine.

The University of Calgary’s research changes the world. UCalgary scholars, including many from the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM), are making a positive impact in Alberta and beyond. Read more about UCalgary COVID-19 research and innovation. In February 2020, an international research team led by the Hotchkiss Brain Institute at the CSM and Alberta Health Services announced promising results for a new way of treating acute ischemic stroke patients. The research shows that a new drug, nerinetide, helps preserve brain cells for a time after stroke. Read more.

Four UBC Faculty of Medicine researchers announced as the principal investigators of teams collectively receiving more than $2.4 million in grants from the federal government to accelerate the development, testing, and implementation of measures to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak.

Researchers from the University of British Columbia and the Central South University in China for the first time identified a gene that increases the risk of Alzheimer’s disease.

The voice of academic medicine in Canada
Dr. France Légaré

**AFMC PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN ACADEMIC MEDICINE**

Initially trained as an architect and subsequently trained as a family doctor in Quebec City, with a Master’s degree in community health and a PhD in Population Health from the University of Ottawa, France Légaré is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine at Laval University. From June 2006 to May 2016, Dr. Légaré held the title of Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Implementation of Shared Decision Making in Primary Care. As of June 1st 2016, she holds the title of Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Shared Decision Making and Knowledge Translation. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, she was listed as one of the top 1% most cited scientists worldwide (Clarivate Analytics), indicating that her work has been repeatedly judged by her peers to be of notable significance and utility.

Quote from nomination: “Her unique expertise, her scientific rigour and her ability to bring about change in the organizations involved have made her a much sought-after consultant who participates in many provincial, national and international tables. Dr. France Légaré is also distinguished by the excellence of her research and teaching work, as well as her involvement in the scientific community. She is a pioneer in patient engagement in research and patient concerns are at the heart of her work. In addition to her exceptional scientific productivity, Dr. Légaré is recognized as a passionate and generous person driven by great human values.” Dr. Julien Poitras, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Université Laval

The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) Social Accountability Taskforce
(Chaired by Robert Woollard, Mohammed Elhassan Abdalla, Julian Fisher)

**AFMC – CHARLES BOELEN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AWARD**

The TUFH Social Accountability and Accreditation Taskforce has established the foundation (i.e. technology amplification, knowledge sharing, case-based learning) for a global community of practice resulting in a global policy paper with concrete local action recommendations to inform global policy makers and country change agents. The TUFH Social Accountability and Accreditation Taskforce is committed to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations by creating communication and knowledge sharing e-learning platforms for global and national interprofessional and inter sectoral communities of practice that build each participant respective capacity.

Quote from nomination: “Over the past 40 years, The Network: TUFH has focused on health content pillars and Interprofessional Education as its pedagogical approach to guide its work. Current and historical health pillars include Social Accountability; Population Health, and Communities at Risk: Remote and Rural, Indigenous, Migrants and Refugees, Women, and Elderly Populations. TUFTS current and historical approach has been one driven by problem – based learning and community – based education currently defined within Interprofessional Education.” Nicholas Torres, Executive Director, TUFH
Dr. Faisal Khosa

AFMC – MAY COHEN EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND GENDER AWARD

Dr. Faisal Khosa is an Associate Professor in Radiology at the University of British Columbia. He received his medical degree in Pakistan followed by board certifications in radiology from Ireland, the USA and Canada. He subsequently completed an MBA at Goizueta Business School. He is an internationally renowned speaker with 169 peer-reviewed publications and has received over six million dollars in collaborative grants in North America. His book on leadership is being published by Bloomsbury: http://faisalkhosa.com/books/.

Quote from nomination: “In his career he has mentored more than five hundred medical students, residents, fellows and junior faculty from groups that are underrepresented in medicine (URM), imparting skills and knowledge, and therefore, encouraging, promoting, sponsoring and empowering them. Dr. Khosa serves the URM through his research and mentoring and is the recipient of accolades and awards in Canada, USA, Ireland, Pakistan and The Middle East. He is spearheading the most comprehensive gender and racial disparity research in academic medicine, its professional societies and the editorial boards of medical journals. He is invited to speak and conduct workshops on equity, diversity and inclusion all over the world.”

Dr. Dermot Kelleher, Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Vice-President, Health at the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Meredith Giuliani

AFMC – YOUNG EDUCATORS AWARD

Dr. Meredith Giuliani is an associate professor in the University of Toronto, Department of Radiation Oncology and a radiation oncologist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. She received her MBBS qualification from the University of London, England and her Master’s of Education from the University of Toronto. She completed her residency training at the University of Toronto. She is the Medical Director of Education for Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and the Chair of the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology’s Education Committee.

Quote from nomination: “Dr. Giuliani’s talent and passion for medical education is demonstrated by the high level of respect she receives from her colleagues. One colleague commented, “It is said, that it is no longer possible for academic physicians to succeed as an educator, clinician and researcher. Dr. Giuliani belies this adage. She has seamlessly interwoven her clinical and education accomplishments with her scholarly and research efforts...She is an education superstar. I am looking forward to watching her star continue to rise as she progresses through her career.”

Dr. Trevor Young, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
Dr. Bryan Arthurs

**AFMC CLINICAL TEACHER AWARD**

Dr. Bryan Arthurs graduated from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the American Board of Ophthalmology. He holds a professorship in the Department of Ophthalmology at McGill University. He has published several scientific articles, book chapters and a volume in the field of Oculoplastics. He has made scientific presentations at various local and international conferences and is active in research. Dr. Arthurs is involved in the teaching of Ophthalmology and Oculoplastic Surgery at McGill University and the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Quote from nomination: “He is viewed by our residents as an “excellent teacher” with particular recognition as a “role model regarding interaction with patients and physicians/staff/residents.” He is considered to be a “very generous surgical teacher.” He “leads by example” and “promotes clinical exposure.” Other adjectives include “exemplary” and “excellent surgeon, clinician, and teacher,” and “truly cares about residents and his patients.” He also teaches medical students, and comments include “Great teacher, a very dedicated and passionate preceptor!” “Fantastic,” and “Dr. Arthurs was truly inspiring.” Dr. Leonard A. Levin, Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, McGill University.

Dr. Heather Buckley

**AFMC AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO FACULTY DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA**

Dr. Buckley graduated with her medical degree from the University of British Columbia (UBC) and completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Western Ontario. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at UBC. She has a special interest in the area of faculty development, and holds a leadership position on the Vancouver Fraser Medical Program (VFMP) Faculty Development Team. She has also actively supported the teaching and examination requirements of students in VFMP for the past 15 years, and has been acknowledged for her contributions.

Quote from nomination: “Dr. Buckley’s efforts, […], extend well beyond promoting, developing, and improving faculty development within her own program. She receives constant requests of support and advice from other faculty development leaders outside of Vancouver and outside of the Faculty. Despite working in a large and distributed university, Dr. Buckley is broadly known and considered a favourite resource. She is a natural collaborator who is contributing to multi-professional faculty development initiatives through, among other things, a recently invited presentation with a faculty member from Pharmaceutical Sciences on the relationship between faculty development and educational change.” Dr. Dermot Kelleher, Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Vice-President, Health at the University of British Columbia.
Dr. Jillian Horton

AFMC – GOLD HUMANISM AWARD AND LECTURE

Dr. Horton is a general internist who serves in multiple leadership positions at University of Manitoba's Max Rady College of Medicine in Winnipeg, including: inaugural Director of the college’s and Faculty of Health Sciences programs in Physician and Learner Wellness; Director of the Alan Klass Health Humanities Program; and Associate Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Horton previously served as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Affairs at the medical college. She has won numerous awards for mentorship, professionalism, and teaching.

Quote from nomination: “The phenomenal impact that Dr. Horton has made in the lives of my colleagues, her patients, our medical education curriculum, the wider health care community, and myself, demonstrates her immense contributions towards establishing ideals of humanism and patient-centered care. [...] She truly exemplifies the qualities necessary to the practice of patient-centered medicine, from her teaching on mindfulness in medicine, to humanist ethics, compassion, and empathy, she has sought to foster these attributes in health care learners and exquisitely role model them by example when working clinically with patients.” Dr. Sharon Straus, Professor, Director, Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto

Dr. Kathy Boutis

AFMC – JOHN RUEDY AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Dr. Boutis completed a residency in paediatrics in 1998 and a fellowship in paediatric emergency medicine in 2001 at the Children’s Hospital in Boston, Harvard University. She is currently a staff physician in the emergency department at The Hospital for Sick Children, a Senior Associate Scientist in the Child Health Evaluative Sciences Program at SickKids Research Institute, and a Professor of Paediatrics with the University of Toronto. From 2012-2018, she was Research Director in Paediatric Emergency Medicine. Since 2015 she is the Vice-Chair of the Research Ethics Board and in 2017 she launched and became the academic director of ImageSim, an image interpretation learning system.

Quote from nomination: “The work she and her team do has been transformative among learners in the areas of simulation, training and Continuing Professional Development. She actively engages in collaborations internationally towards the goal of encouraging the role of technology, research and innovation in medical education. [...] She has numerous speaking invitations locally, nationally, and internationally to present her medical education work at innovation, education, pediatrics, and emergency medicine venues. Dr. Boutis’ medical education research and ImageSim are preeminent examples of how science, knowledge translation, creativity and education all come together to result in this masterful learning platform.” Dr. Trevor Young, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
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Université de Sherbrooke
AFMC TEAM

MISSING FROM THE PHOTOS BELOW: Melissa Shahin, Brenda Du Plessis, Ashley Mahoney, Talia Chin, Olivier D'Amours, Donald McKay
In 2019-20, the AFMC began a strategic planning exercise specifically at the areas of health education and research as well as social accountability. We look forward to engaging with our academic medicine community and partners to complete our strategic plan later in 2020.

FMEC 2020: One vision forward
Reigniting our common vision for the Future of Medical Education in Canada

The Future of Medical Education in Canada (FMEC) MD Project (2010), Postgraduate Project (2012) and CPD Project (2019) have led to a series of bold recommendations that are the compass the medical education community in Canada used to guide us towards our social accountability.

AFMC surveyed our Faculties, our partners and the medical education community to map our collective progress to date. This included our Faculties’ work towards the FMEC MD recommendations, our PG partners perspective of the advancement of the FMEC PG recommendations, the communities at large focused view on the future of medical education and an open survey of what our priorities should be moving forward. A reflective report card was produced so that as a united community, we can carve out a clear and actionable way forward to address the gaps in our medical education system.
The 2019-2020 fiscal year closed with the AFMC in an overall stable financial position, acknowledging that some programs suffered significant losses due to COVID-19. Audited financial statements are available to all members upon request.

NET ASSETS AS AT JUNE 30, 2020

53%
Internally Restricted Funds – CCME, CMEJ, CACMS, CAPER, Contingency, Wind-Up

AFMC PORTAL REGISTRATION FEE

WHAT IS IT?
Provides students with the capacity to build one online profile and access opportunities for visiting electives offered by medical schools.

WHAT DOES IT COVER?
Hosting, maintenance, management of the portal and the AFMC staff that dedicate their time to manage the portal and help desk.

WHO SETS $ AMOUNT
AFMC Board of Directors

WHO GETS $ 
AFMC

THE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE AFMC STUDENT PORTAL

The AFMC student Portal was created at the request of Canadian medical students to simplify the visiting elective application process. Before the Portal was established, students filled out primarily paper-based applications through up to 17 distinct application processes. The AFMC Board of Directors supported the development of the AFMC Student Portal, and loaned start-up funding, with the proviso that it be financially self-sustainable through fees from students.
The effort that was undertaken by our faculties of medicine over the last several months has been tremendous. Between managing changes at the faculty level, supporting learners to ensure they are both protected yet engaged, taking on greater clinical roles, the contributions were so important for academic medicine. We would like to recognize these efforts and thank our members for their relentless commitment.