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Message from the Graduate Chair

With the year coming to an end and holidays looming I thought I would send a quick update for the past term.

The most substantive change in the Health Sciences program this fall was the restructuring of the 990 seminar series, shifting from regular sessions to a research day each term as recommended in our program review and endorsed at our annual meeting in May. On November 28th the first research day was held and we had seven speakers present. 63% of the students were in attendance. This is a good start but we would certainly like to see greater participation both in terms of students and faculty. In addition to the research day we also had a combined College of Medicine Seminar in October (Carolyn Ells, "Research Ethics Hot Spots in the Graduate Student-Mentor Relationship") as a component of 990 requirements across different programs. This talk was very well attended and we are planning on continuing this approach with an additional talk next term (7 March 2019) focused on the subject of predatory publishing. Finally, the OVDR has helped to resource seminars focused around professional development that are being coordinated by Dr. Joyce Wilson from the Department of Biochemistry and Immunology which are open to all College of Medicine Graduate students who are interested.

Participation in seminars – gaining experience with presenting and learning from peers and visitors - is a critical piece of academic culture. Seminar series are thus not something that one completes and it is this philosophy that is at the heart of our efforts to restore the Health Sciences 990 requirement and expand professional development opportunities. I am pleased

with the progress that is being made. That said, we welcome any and all feedback on how we can continue to do better.

In the last newsletter we communicated the plan to begin establishing focused research Streams in the Health Sciences Program. Preliminary discussions have identified Bioinformatics, Indigenous Health, Psychiatry, and Rehabilitation Sciences as potential Streams and we welcome additional suggestions from groups looking to increase their profile within our program.

Finally, we are seeking feedback regarding the request from the Graduate Student Association (GSA) to adopt their recently ratified Student-Supervisor Agreement as a required component of our program. A link to this agreement is provided on the left side of this page. We welcome feedback from both faculty and students regarding the use of this agreement. Should it be formally adopted it would become a component of the onboarding of students similar to the Program of Studies. Ultimately, I think this will be a benefit to everyone involved and we are considering making it a required component in order to be eligible for College of Medicine funding. Please send your thoughts to ovdr.grad@usask.ca.

That's it for now. I wish all of you and yours a happy and restful Holiday Season,

Dave Cooper

Student-Supervisor Agreement

<https://gsa.usask.ca/documents/important-Documents/student-supervisor-agreement.pdf>

Current Funding Opportunities

What funds are still available to you right now?

Health Sciences Graduate Scholarships

This program currently has a surplus and thus will consider out-of-cycle applicants applying to the program for a January start date. Details available here:

<https://medicine.usask.ca/students/graduate-programs/funding.php#Program>

Tuition Bursary Program

This program targets students ineligible for scholarships due to professional employment is in surplus and will consider out of cycle applicants. Details available here:

<https://medicine.usask.ca/students/graduate-programs/funding.php#University>

Graduate Students & Post Doctoral Fellows Conference Travel Awards

Students and fellows are now eligible for up to **\$1500** to offset the costs of conference travel. Doctoral students may now apply twice during their programs. Details available here:

<https://medicine.usask.ca/students/graduate-programs/funding.php#University>



Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Deadlines to be aware of:

2019-2020 CoMGRAD

The 2019-2020 CoMGRAD call is open. The deadline for application will be 15 January 2019. The application form can be accessed here:

<https://medicine.usask.ca/students/graduate-programs/funding.php#College>

2019-2020 PDF Competition

A limited number of post doctoral fellowships will be made available in 2019. The competition is open and the deadline for application will be 15 January 2019. The application can be accessed here:

<https://medicine.usask.ca/students/graduate-programs/funding.php#College>

Parental Leave Grant

This is a trial program being launched for a three year term beginning September 2018 and extending to August 2021. This program may be superseded by a University-level program during this term, at which point the CoM program will be revised and possibly withdrawn.

Description: A CoM graduate student may apply for financial assistance during a leave to serve as the primary care-giver immediately following the birth of a child occurring prior to the completion of the student's program.

Amount: \$4000/6 month period paid via monthly installments. Renewal once with a total of \$8000 per student per academic program.

Funding Source: OVDR (Assistant Dean Graduate Studies Discretionary Fund).

How to Apply:

- Completed [CoM Graduate Parental Leave Grant Form](#)
- Letter from Supervisor confirming funding level and duration for the student, student progress in program and expected time needed to complete their program upon the completion of the leave
- Doctor's note

Note: CoMGRAD scholarships may be deferred for the period of a leave approved by CGPS for parental reasons.

Awards Administered by CGPS:

2019 Mackenzie King Open and Travelling Scholarships
2019 Teacher Scholar Doctoral Fellowships
2019 Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship
The Robson Bursary for Graduate Students
The Walter Sumner Memorial Fellowship
Canadian Federation of University Women Saskatoon Inc. Graduate Scholarships
2019 Indigenous Graduate Leadership Award – Due December 17

For further information about these awards please contact:
gradstudies.awards@usask.ca - 306.966.5760



Professional Development

Graduate student success is not limited to teaching and academic performance. Whether you have lots of time or just a little to devote to professional skills development, there are a variety of opportunities for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to consider.

Ask James about the Graduate Professional Skills Certificate, GPS 984: Thinking Critically, or Mitacs.

Upcoming Events

- 24 December 2018 – 28 December 2018 **University Closed**
31 December 2018 – 1 January 2019
- 10 January 2019 4:00-4:50 PM
Career Development Seminar Series - “How to Find a Good Post-doc Position”
Dr. Patricia Thibault
B450 Health Sciences Building
- 31 January 2019 4:00-4:50
Career Development Seminar Series – “Research Involving Indigenous Peoples”
Dr. Alexandra King
B450 Health Sciences Building
- 7 March 2019 4:00-4:50
Combined College of Medicine 990 Seminar – “Open Access and Predatory Journals”
Catherine Boden and DeDe Dawson, Liason Librarians,
B450 Health Sciences Building

Program Streams

Streams within the HSGP are intended to provide focus for areas of strength represented by critical mass of faculty, graduate courses and students. Stream are not formal programs recognized by CGPS and all programming must ultimately adhere to the HSGP umbrella under which they ultimately fall. Initially a Stream should be represented by at least 3 faculty and have relevant courses available or plans in place to develop relevant courses. Streams with a to-be-determined number of students will be invited to nominate a representative to the HSGP Program Committee.

Stream Benefits:

Representation on the HSGP Program Committee (with a certain number of students)

Resources to help support Stream engagement? (with x or more students)

A web page hosted and maintained within the HSGP website

- Images
- Paragraph outlining Stream area of focus
- Resources/Infrastructure/etc
- Relevant Faculty (with mini bios/Google Scholar links?)
- Relevant Courses (H.Sc. and other)
- Students (with mini bios/Google Scholar links?)
- Alumni list with thesis topics

Stream Responsibilities:

Ongoing commitment to ensuring relevant courses are available

- Including development of new courses

Providing necessary materials for the website

- Initially and then at least annually to maintain accuracy

Feedback:

We welcome any feedback you may have regarding this newsletter and programmatic policies in general. Please send you thoughts to the program coordinator ovdr.grad@usask.ca or Dr. Cooper david.cooper@usask.ca