

News and Events for Residents and Faculty of College of Medicine

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PGME Connect

Facilitating conversations among the PGME community

MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE DEAN, PGME

Dr. Anurag Saxena

The PGME office is proud to offer residents, faculty, staff, and our partner stakeholder organizations a new communications e-newsletter, **PGME Connect**. We are eager to highlight the exceptional services, resources, and on-going work in medical education that is occurring within our programs and province.

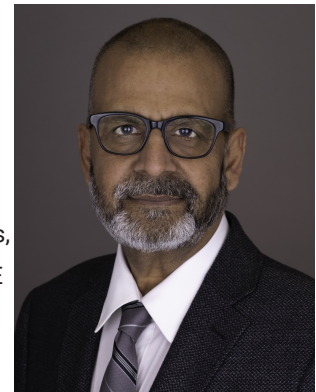
We will be striving to share accomplishments, highlight cross-departmental collaborations, promote organizational learning, broaden the historical and contextual relevance of PGME to our communities, and bring forth current practices and recent advances.

This past year has brought unprecedented challenges to our healthcare and medical education communities. The responsiveness, innovation, and resiliency of our PGME family has been truly exceptional. PGME has been dedicated in providing the most up-to-date information on our COVID-19 response. All PGME updates, along with wellness and education resources, can be found on our [website](#).

PGME maintains an open-door policy and we welcome inquiries – you can find a complete list of our office staff [here](#).

We want this newsletter to be valuable for you so please share your feedback and suggestions to help us improve!

Contact us at pgme.communications@usask.ca



COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT AND RESPONSIVENESS

Our residents and programs have faced and continue to face many challenges due to the current pandemic.

| Learning and Residency completion | Clinical care provision | Well-being |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No out of province rotations and electives for approx. 4 months. • Reduced off-service rotations. • Conversion to on-line format for academic sessions. • Reduced simulation availability. • Negative impact on completion of remediation/probation plans. • Reduced access to some learning experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immuno-compromised. • 14-day self-isolation. • Postponed national examinations. • Provisional licensure. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased involvement – ER, ICU. • PPE fitting. • Redeployment (with-in and between programs). • Development of back-up calls. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncertainties around residency completion, learning experiences, exposure: Impact on multiple domains of well-being: physical, emotional, financial, social, occupational, environmental. • Incidents of Covid-19 exposure to healthcare team members. |

These challenges have created many opportunities. [Read more...](#)

HIGHLIGHTS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

An Innovation Identified as a Leading Practice and Innovation in the 2020 Accreditation Report of our Forensic Psychiatry Program

A meaningful collaboration in teaching Indigenous Mental Health and criminalization: An important step in the right direction.

Indigenous people are disproportionately represented in the Canadian criminal justice system. This is a well-known fact, which has been demonstrated by many academic studies in the past forty years. In 1988, a study done at the University of British Columbia by Michael Jackson found that in Saskatchewan, Indigenous people were between 6 and 7% of the population, but constituted 60% of admissions to provincial correctional centres (Jackson 1988, p216). Over-representation of people with mental illness including Indigenous people has also been increasing since late 1970s. This over-representation is often referred to as criminalization of mental illness. Forensic psychiatrists like other mental health professionals, patient advocacy organizations and policy makers are becoming more concerned about the number of indigenous people with mental illness in the criminal justice system, from the point of arrest through the courts and in incarcerated population.

Forensic Psychiatry is a branch of medicine concerned with the intersection of mental health and the legal system, in which scientific expertise and clinical expertise are applied to legal and administrative issues in contexts involving civil, criminal, correctional, or legislative matters. Forensic Psychiatrists also have specialized expertise in the assessment and treatment of special populations. (Forensic Psychiatry Competencies 2021 Version 1.0). [Read more...](#)

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



CMA Physician Changemaker - Dr. Scott Adams, Radiology, U of S.

Learn more by visiting, cma.ca/dr-scott-adams

ACADEMIC CORNER

Within our continuously changing health care environment, it is important for health care professionals to stay up to date on new, exciting, informative, and innovative research in medical education. For this issue, we have selected several articles of interest:

COVID-19 Responsiveness

Health care organizations worldwide have been impacted by the Coronavirus disease. This has required health organizations to undergo many operational changes to meet increasing demands on the system. In this article, [“Contributions of Health Professions Students to Health System Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Potential](#)

[Strategies and Process for U.S. Medical Schools](#)”, the authors explore how medical students can contribute to quality health care during this time. [Read more...](#)

PGME PORTFOLIO UPDATES

Resident Well-being

The PGME Resident Resource Office (RRO) continues to demonstrate on-going commitment to resident well-being within our college. The past months have presented residents with new challenges within their educational environment and the PGME RRO is working continuously to ensure all resident needs are met. Over the past year we have collaborated with several organizations to foster well-being within our resident community:

The PGME RRO has collaborated with the National AFMC’s Postgraduate Affairs Subcommittee, Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA) and Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan (RDoS) during the Covid-19 pandemic to coordinate Mental Health resources, online support groups and access to virtual counselling services on demand. Rapid access protocols set up by the SMA Physician Health Program and the College of Medicine has allowed residents to have access to psychiatric care as needed. Digital Ice Cream Rounds and virtual town hall meetings with wellness focus have also been offered to the residents.

The PGME RRO has also collaborated with the Saskatchewan Health Authority – Occupational Health and Safety Office for a coordinated Covid-19 response and safety measures for residents.

The Covid-19 bursary to support medical residents had provided much needed financial support to learners in transition who had been negatively impacted by the pandemic. The CMA Foundation Covid-19 Support for Medical Learners Bursary provided support for 23 PGME residents at the College of Medicine.

The PGME RRO has collaborated with the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA) in the implementation of Transition to Residency Curriculum - Resident Symposia Series at the University of Saskatchewan to close gaps in current educational offerings.

Follow the links below for Resources and Services for Residents:

- Free [psychological services](#) by Canadian Psychological Association
- Free [Employee and Family Assistance Program \(EFAP\)](#) by University of Saskatchewan
- [Covid-19 Resources by RDoS](#)
- Physician Wellness WebEx Series: Strategies for Anxiety During COVID-19 (SHA). [Watch the full webinar here.](#)

Did you know....

That the PGME RRO provides Wellness Events Funding to support social events organized at the program/site level to improve social well-being of our residents? For more information, contact [Judy](#).

[Villanueva](#), Administrative Support, Resident Resource Office.

Have you experienced/witnessed unacceptable behaviour or a harmful incident as a resident? Consider your [Safe Reporting Options](#).



General Pathology Resident Wellness Event Funded by PGME RRO, Feb 2021.

We are transitioning to Elentra from E-Portfolio

There is an ongoing need to review learner, program, and curriculum management. Acknowledging the co-existence of many platforms, the urgent need is to move from e-portfolio to Elentra.

This work will be completed in three phases and is being implemented through collaboration between PGME and IT systems (College of Medicine) and the implementation structure involves a Strategic Oversight and Implementation Committee, Management and Operations Committee, and Program-Level Operational Work Committees. [Read more...](#)

Admissions: 2021 R1 Match

Due to COVID several key aspects of the match changed including electives and interviews. In December, the PGME office held a CaRMS workshop and a CASPER workshop for program directors and administrators to review all aspects of the match process. All interviews were virtual for the 2021 match cycle and the PGME office prepared a [virtual interview guide](#) for programs. In addition, COM IT met with program directors and administrators to assist them in preparing for all aspects of the virtual interviews. File review opened on February 8 and residency programs held interviews between March 8 and 28. First iteration match results will be released on April 20, 2021.

Medical students were not permitted to complete out of province electives so programs connected with applicants through virtual town halls and presentations. PGME provided funding for programs to collaborate with Media Production to create short promo videos to post on CaRMS program descriptions and program social media. We invite you to learn more about U of S residency programs and the PGME office by viewing the videos which are available on the College of Medicine [YouTube](#) channel.

Education

The PGME Resident Quality Referral and Consultation Education (QRCE)

QRCE was developed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health in collaboration with the College of Medicine PGME to train residents and physicians on how to improve the written and verbal referral/consultation communication. The Program is required for PGME completion and consists of four stages:

- An **introductory presentation** on effective consultation communication. This presentation provides data on the number of referrals made in Saskatchewan, the importance of good communication, and the impact of poor-quality referrals and consultations on patients and on the broader health care system.
- **Module 1** – effective consultation communication in an acute care setting. This includes over the phone and in-person encounters such as a request for advice, investigations, or a transfer of care.
- **Module 2** – make an effective written consultation. This module will cover the core elements of an effective written consultation and show how a written consultation can go wrong.
- A **final interdisciplinary workshop**- Case studies and evaluation of using the tools provided during residency.

A multi-level evaluation framework is being implemented including pilot testing, process evaluation and outcome evaluation. The introductory workshop was delivered to 120 PGY1 residents at the PGME Resident Boot Camp in June 2020. The two online modules are now available in Canvas. Residents and faculty may contact [Heather Schultz](#) to request access.

Policy

Have questions about policies? PGME policies and guidelines are available on the [PGME website](#). Policies are reviewed regularly, updated when required and are approved by the PGME Committee. Some of the most recent policy updates in PGME are: [Moonlighting](#) and [Discrimination & Harassment](#). The [Resident Health & Safety Policy](#) is currently under review. Some new policies we are looking into are *Parental Leave* and *Conflict of Interest*. Do you have suggestions for policy changes or improvements to current policies? Please send your suggestions via email to [Reola Mathieu](#), Coordinator, Academic & Non-Academic Processes.

Accreditation

Over the last year several residency training programs have undergone reviews. We would like to thank these programs for their hard work and dedication in meeting the Accreditation Standards. Internal reviews for all programs will be held in Fall, 2021 in preparation for the Royal College and College of Family Physicians of Canada site visit (external reviews) in Fall, 2023.

To learn more about the Accreditation of Residency Education and discipline-specific standards, select a link below:

[Canadian Excellence in Residency Accreditation \(CanERA\)](#)
[Accreditation Standards \(for institutions, residency programs\)](#)
[Discipline-specific Standards](#)

To learn more on Accreditation Status and on the internal review process, visit our website at medicine.usask.ca/residents/pgme-programs.php#AccreditationStatus

STAKEHOLDER'S CORNER

Faculty Development:



**HEALTH PROFESSIONS
EDUCATION**

College of Education



The College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan is currently accepting applications for the Certificates and Master of Education in Health Professions Education programs.

Developed in collaboration with the Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Kinesiology, Pharmacy and Nutrition, and the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, these online programs were developed for health professionals who want to improve their education knowledge and teaching skills to better prepare themselves for educational leadership roles. Graduates will be prepared to be leaders and confident, informed participants in curricular revision, revitalization and development, and to contribute to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning across campus and through the global academic community.

"I have learned so much already! I am so excited that I continue to email my colleagues with different articles, etc. that I know will be useful to them as well. I am already planning how to improve my next teaching session." - Dr. Joelle McBain, HPE Student, Year 4/5 Chair, Year 3 Site Director, Regina Campus.

Application deadline is June 1 for a September 1 start. For more information go to: grad.usask.ca/education.

Coaching – Focus on Bias

Faculty Development would also be happy to facilitate a workshop, Coaching Learners for Success. If you have faculty who are new to the idea of coaching in Medicine, this session is a good way to introduce them to the concept of coaching both in the moment & over time. Contact Sean Polreis (sean.polreis@usask.ca)

[creo™](#) is an online learning tool that delivers research education in a straight forward and easy-to-digest way, guiding the learner through the step-wise process of developing a research project. More information can be found in the [creo Information Booklet](#).

Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA):

Access to free 24/7 counselling through the CMA Wellness Support Line at 1-844-675-9222 – this is in addition to supports offered through the PHP. Also the addition to the SMA PHP – Jessica Richardson is the Clinical Coordinator for the PHP in Regina and the southern part of the province – 306-359-2750 or Jessica.richardson@sma.sk.ca

Be sure to follow up with SMA to ensure that you have life and disability insurance in place! More details, [HERE!](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events:

May 10 - PD/PAA Workshop (Virtual)

Welcome:

PGME welcomed several new Program Directors and Assistant Program Directors since the start of the 2020/2021 academic year. We thank all of the outgoing Program Directors for their hard work and dedication provided over the years to training our amazing residents!

Program Directors:

Pathology: Dr. Janine Benoit

Pediatrics: Dr. Mark Inman

Respirology: Dr. Erika Penz

Assistant Program Directors:

Internal Medicine (Core): Dr. Marc Reeson (Regina)

Internal Medicine (Research): Dr. Julian Tam

Internal Medicine (Simulation): Dr. Hassan Masri

Obstetrics & Gynecology: Dr. Jackie Ferguson (Regina)

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation: Dr. Brenden Kushneriuk

Psychiatry: Dr. Andriyka Papish (Regina)

Respirology: Dr. Anderson Tyan

Surgical Foundations: Dr. Mark Sheridan

Program Administrative Assistants:

Anesthesia & Subspecialties: Amanda Strauss (Regina)

Family Medicine: Chantel Ellis (Saskatoon)

Clinician Investigator Program: Samantha Chymy (temporary)

Diagnostic Radiology: Amanda O'Leary (term)

Internal Medicine: Jenelle Butler (term, Jennifer Gates-Debogorski on LOA)

Internal Medicine: Kim Gilbert (Regina, taking over new program)

Public Health & Preventive Medicine: Jo Anne Ellis (term, Amanda Willms on LOA)

ICU/Trauma: Shanda Litke (Regina)

Psychiatry: Colleen Sopatyk (casual term)

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Yvonne Siermacheski to the PGME team. Yvonne is our administrative support for resident electives - incoming and outgoing, moonlighting, ICP, Regina Accommodations and E-Health registration held previously by Ms. Janine Corbett who retired from her role in PGME July 2020.

The Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan (RDoS) and University of Saskatchewan ratify the 2018-2022

Collective Agreement. For more information, visit www.residentdoctorssk.ca



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